

NEWS: HORSE SPORT IN PERIL AMID BBC CUTS

HORSE & HOUND[®]

3 DECEMBER 2015

EVERY THURSDAY

2015
REVIEW
OF THE
YEAR



2015 The best of an epic year

The people and horses who
made us laugh, love and cry

PLUS: Our pick of this year's
pictures, letters and stories

NEW



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This week

3 December

'I freely admit that the best of my fun, I owe it to horse and hound'

Whyte-Melville 1821-1878



Scarteen visitor Helen Bowser heads for a dunking but thankfully comes out unharmed



Hans Peter Minderhoud (Glock's Flirt) wins the World Cup leg in Sweden with 80.95%



Page 66: Laura Elliott samples some Dutch courage before the Dianas of the Chase Cup



Page 92: Olympic cyclist Victoria Pendleton (left) ahead of her point-to-point debut

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Foals shouldn't be brought up with small paddocks, isolation, over petting, rugs and three meals a day. They are horses, not lap dogs'

Carole Mortimer **Page 84**

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When should you euthanise?

Having a horse put down is a difficult decision, and practices vary globally.

Rachael Hook looks at new support for owners

OWNERS seeking advice on when to put a horse down could soon benefit from more support thanks to new research.

A euthanasia survey is being conducted by Liane Preshaw of The Horse Trust and is open to owners, as well as vets and farriers.

The survey asks respondents which factors led them to put the horse to sleep, including aspects of the animal's health or welfare that contributed, and how confident the person was with their decision.

Results will be collated to find out if there is a common understanding between owners and professionals of the signs that indicate a horse's quality of life has been sufficiently compromised to give grounds for euthanasia, as well as any other situations that justify putting a horse down.

"Having a horse put to sleep can be very difficult and emotional, and in many cases it will be the hardest decision an owner will have to make," Ms Preshaw told *H&H*.

"The Horse Trust frequently receives phone calls from owners about euthanasia.

"The circumstances vary from case to case, but there is often no clear answer. This can lead to feelings of guilt."

In some cases the choice to put a horse down can be relatively straightforward due to serious injury or ill health.

However, the situation can become complicated if the horse's welfare state is acceptable but the owner is unable to continue caring for the horse.

Overseas, owners may choose not to put their horse down for cultural or religious reasons (see box, right).

Ms Preshaw hopes that the survey will provide information about the most common behavioural and physical signs that professionals and owners consider important when making the choice.

"If an explicit set of criteria can be considered, then the decision-making process becomes much more consistent," she said.

Horse owners told *H&H* the lack of information on euthanasia made the process more challenging.

Elizabeth Graney had to make the

decision this year with two of her elderly horses – one has Cushing's and the other was injured after being kicked.

She chose not to put the horses down as they still have a good quality of life.

"The options are rarely clear and if you are new to an area, the lack of contacts can make it very difficult too," she told *H&H*.

"More information on this subject would be welcome and a directory of contacts would be helpful – from hunts to vets."

Becky Murray from Aberdeenshire had two of her horses put down this year.

"Both horses were relatively young and were put down for completely different reasons, it was heartbreaking," she said.

"I was fortunate to have fantastic vets who really helped me through the process, but I had so many questions, and didn't know what to expect. I think it is after the event that is hardest – dealing with the loss."

Support for owners

THE British Horse Society (BHS) set up its Friends at the End scheme in January 2013.



EUTHANASIA OVERSEAS

IN the UK and Ireland it is the responsibility of the owner to decide if and when a horse should be put down.

However, many countries in Europe only allow horses to be euthanised on veterinary advice. These include France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

There are also areas across the world where equine euthanasia is rejected for cultural or religious reasons.

"The anthropology of euthanising animals is a passionate and complex issue," said vet Josep Subriana. "Religion is often mixed with tradition and in some areas like west Africa, the belief of animism – that all living things have a spirit or soul – is also a factor.

"Generally speaking, Islamic, Sub-Saharan, Buddhist and Hindu countries tend to be more reluctant to euthanise, along with less developed countries or areas – but in these places it is not always linked to religion."

Mr Subriana added that providing free euthanasia services can encourage owners to consider it as an option for their animals.

"Sometimes offering economic compensation to those who have had their horse put to sleep can be effective," he said.



"Education is also important, encouraging people to see euthanasia as a compassionate act that is in the animal's best interest."

This year videos emerged of amputation of parts of the lower legs of Middle Eastern endurance horses (pictured, above).

Comments accompanying the Kuwaiti post state that amputation allows owners to avoid euthanasia in cases of traumatic leg injury.

Roly Owers of World Horse Welfare said: "When handled carefully and with the best interests of the animal at heart, it is possible to overcome these delicate issues. Above all else we have to be a strong voice, stating unequivocally that an animal's quality of life has to be the primary driver for making decisions around euthanasia."

The free service provides support for owners making the decision to euthanise their horse in non-urgent cases.

Friends at the End offers counselling and information as well as volunteers who can be present while a horse is put down.

It is seeing a significant uptake and is now helping several owners a week.

Gemma Stanford of the BHS told *H&H*: "Coming into the winter the number of people we help increases."

The same year the service was launched, the National Fallen Stock Company (NFSC) – a not-for-profit business set up by Defra for the collection and disposal of dead farm animals – launched a survey to find out if owners are aware of the options available.

The survey was completed by more than 800 owners and asked them about their experiences when it came to disposing of a horse which had died or been put to sleep (see box, right).

It found that just over half of respondents (55%) who had experienced the death and disposal of a horse had planned in advance the method they would use to put their horse down. The findings were shared with equine organisations and vets, and were used to improve the NFSC's own website and services.

● **Ms Preshaw's survey will be open until 13 December and a report will produced by June 2016. To complete the survey visit: www.horseandhound.co.uk/euthanasia-survey**

CHALLENGING DECISIONS

64%

used an injection at the vet to have their horse put down

33%

opted for captive bolt or a shot by the hunt, vet or collector

38%

gave horse welfare as the reason for selecting a particular euthanasia method

99%

did not intend their horse to enter the food chain

6%

said cost was a factor in their decision

Results from NFSC survey



BALTHAZAR KING

The popular chaser who broke several ribs falling in this year's Grand National is "full of himself" and back being ridden. The 11-year-old has recovered and is aimed at the cross-country race at the Cheltenham Festival.



FANVILLE DAVID

The coloured non-native has died aged 15 due to a tumour. The pony had success competing at the Royal International for 11 years, and Horse of the Year Show for 10 years, ridden by Brogan Taverner, Zoe Cutmore and Harry Chandler.



PRIVATE COLIN

The former four-star eventer has been put down at the age of 21 due to arthritis. British-bred Private Colin was produced up to top level by Australian rider Sam Griffiths. He was sixth at Blenheim in 2003 and sixth at Badminton in 2004.



DRESDEN MANN

Ingrid Klimke has retired her top grand prix horse. Owned by Brits Clodagh and Jason Wallace, the 11-year-old by Dresemann out of Floh was retired due to "health issues". His last international was at the CDIO Hagen in July.



MURRUM PARK PHANTOM

The pony who successfully competed in eventing, showjumping and showing in the UK and Australia has died. "He was a magical pony with a huge personality," said rider Kate Marfleet.

BBC could axe the red button

Funding cuts within the BBC could have a knock on effect for horse sport. **Amy Mathieson** reports



Badminton is shown live on BBC's red button: organisers believe it will be safe in 2016

EQUESTRIAN sport on television could be further reduced if the BBC closes its red button service.

The organisation is exploring options as part of £150m of cuts, which also include a £35m reduction in sports rights spending.

The plans are to address a shortfall in funding due to more people using iPlayer,

mobiles and other online catch-up – meaning the proportion of households owning a TV is falling, as a loophole allows viewers to watch catch-up TV without a licence.

The BBC said it is “exploring a phased exit from the broadcast red button service and focusing our interactive TV offering on connected televisions and iPlayer”.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TV COVERAGE

PART of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Agenda 2020 is based on attracting a new audience to the sport, and one way is through media coverage.

Since the last Olympics, equestrianism has been demoted from category C to D (with the bottom level being E), despite its popularity at London 2012.

When asked if the BBC cuts would affect the sport's ratings, the IOC told *H&H* it was “hard to say”. The category was determined by the coverage during the Olympic period, however, a spokesman said that sports provide data to the IOC throughout the year, one part of which is coverage.

In April at the FEI sport forum Stefan

Kürten from the European Broadcasting Union said “ratings are king” but sports are expensive to air due to rights hire and production costs, and there is “fierce competition” between sports events to secure a spot.

At London showjumping received a maximum TV audience of **37,069,919**, dressage **17,738,025** and eventing **12,825,000**.

Equestrian sport was shown on **525** channels for London 2012, up from **388** at Beijing 2008. The broadcast hours were **99,982**, up from **61,700**, though the audience stayed fairly steady (**3.7bn** 2012 and **3.5bn** 2008).

The BBC could not confirm to *H&H* how exactly the process would affect equestrian sport. Currently events including Badminton, Burghley, Olympia and the European Championships are shown through the red button service.

Judy Harvey, who provides dressage commentary on the red button, told *H&H* it would be a “great loss” should it be ditched.

“Nearly all dressage coverage is on the red button,” she said. “It's hard to say whether it would be scheduled onto normal programming should it be cut, but the red button is a great thing for die-hard fans of sport and it would be a shame to lose it.”

A further loss

HORSE sport suffered a blow earlier this year when Sky announced in April it would no longer cover Horse of the Year Show.

At the same time Hickstead revealed that it was to move away from Sky Sports for the Derby meeting due to production costs, and use the broadcaster only for the Royal International (news, 30 April).

A BBC statement earlier this month said that cuts were “unavoidable”.

“Even after the new measures announced on 17 November, the BBC faces a long-term challenge to identify a further £550m of savings by 2021/22. We will inevitably have either to close or reduce some services,” it continued.

The £35m saved from the BBC's TV sports rights budget will, said a spokesman, lead to the loss of some existing events.

The £150m is part of the £700m overall savings the BBC must find due to the flat licence fee agreed in the summer and the need to fund the transformation the BBC must undertake for the future.

Badminton safe next year

BADMINTON organisers said the loss of the red button service “will be phased and unlikely to affect Badminton in 2016”.

Event director Hugh Thomas told *H&H*: “We are in constant discussions with the BBC on coverage of the event. Badminton has been streamed live on the BBC Sport website for several years now so there is always that option for people to watch, while FEI TV is available on subscription for viewers outside the UK.”



Showing

New M&M class at HOYS

A new championship for junior riders will be held at Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) in 2016 to prevent them from being "stifled" by adults, writes Lucy Elder.

The junior mountain and moorland (M&M) ridden pony of the year championship will be open to riders aged 10-14.

A spokesman for Grandstand Media, which organises HOYS, said the decision followed a review of the 2014 and 2015 finals.

"It is clear that many of the small breed M&M classes are dominated by senior adult competitors, which is potentially stifling young riders from progressing," he said.

"Conscious of providing new opportunities to young future stars, HOYS will be introducing this championship in addition to the current M&M classes."

Aimed at riders just out of first-ridden classes (pictured, above), it will be open to ponies whose breeding is Welsh section A, Welsh section B, Dartmoor, Exmoor or Shetland.

HOYS' Richard Todd said the new class opens up another "clear avenue of progression" from lead-rein to adult.

"We are positive this new class will make for an excellent season," he added.

Qualification queries

THERE has been speculation that the new series will mean a cut in qualifiers for the open small breeds classes.

Grandstand Media would not comment on whether this is the case or not until they have heard back from all the qualifying venues.

A spokesman added that these are usually finalised by the end of the year.

Anna Richards, a producer and breeder of Welsh section As, often travels for more than two hours to compete in HOYS qualifiers.

"I think it is great that they are going to help the juniors," she told *H&H*.

"Having more classes at HOYS gives people more chances to aim for it."

However, she added that it would be a shame if it came at the cost of cutting classes that have "huge support", such as small breeds qualifiers.

Miss Richards also questioned why the breeds in the new class were restricted when a number of competitors that age will be riding Welsh section Cs or Connemaras.

The news had a mixed response on social

media. HOYS' post on its Facebook page received more than 90 "likes".

However, a number asked why large breed M&Ms were not included and why the age limit was 14.

For the class, riders must have had their 10th birthday by the day of the competition, but must not have reached their 14th birthday before 1 January that year.

Combinations may compete in M&M first ridden and the junior M&M ridden qualifiers.

However, if they qualify for HOYS in both, the rider must choose which class they want to compete in at the championships.

The pony will keep its qualification for both classes, with an alternative rider who fulfils the criteria able to take the spare HOYS ride.

Details of class rules and qualifiers will be revealed in January.

JUDGES

HOYS released its judges list for the 2016 championships on 23 November.

However, the judges for both a new junior M&M class and a number of other classes at the Birmingham event are still yet to be confirmed.

For the first time next year, judges of the Cuddy supreme in-hand and the horse and pony supremes will not be revealed until the 2016 show.

A Grandstand Media spokesman told *H&H* that there would be contingency plans in place should a competitor qualify for the supreme only to then find that they have a connection with the judge.



HORSE & HOUND PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



EMILY KING

British eventer Emily will be training with Cooley Currency at German showjumper Marcus Ehning's yard this winter. "Marcus is a huge idol of mine, and I feel privileged to be spending time learning from such a master," she said.



JOCK PAGET

The New Zealand team event rider married his long-term Australian girlfriend Tegan Niven while in Australia last week. Jock, who won Badminton in 2013, has also won an Olympic bronze medal and is now focussed on Rio selection.



MARC HOUTZAGER

The Dutch rider welcomed the arrival of his second child with his partner and fellow showjumper Julia Kayser. The couple have one daughter called Nina, and celebrated the arrival of another, Liz, on 23 November.



JAMIE DOUGLAS

The rider and instructor based at Erme Valley Riding for Disabled, Devon, has been named KBIS instructor of the year for his inspirational coaching, despite being deaf since birth. Only 2% of trainers in the UK coach with a disability.



IMKE SCHELLEKENS-BARFELS

Dutch Olympic dressage rider Imke, is pregnant with her first child, at the age of 38. Imke and her husband Joep Schellekens are "ecstatic" about the pregnancy.

Racing

Young jockey makes BBC shortlist

CHAMPION apprentice jockey Tom Marquand has been shortlisted for the BBC young sports personality of the year award.

The 17-year-old has been named alongside nine athletes from gymnastics, cricket, athletics, diving, freestyle skiing, weightlifting, para-athletics and para-swimming.

The top three will be announced on 10 December on *Blue Peter*, with the overall winner revealed at the BBC awards on 20 December.

Bloodstock

Dubawi offspring top December sales

DALHAM Hall-based sire Dubawi was responsible for the three top priced lots – at 800,000gns (£840,000), 720,000gns and 625,000gns – at the foal sales in Newmarket. They were his only representatives in the catalogue.

All were fillies. The trio was headed by the daughter of Oaks third High Heeled, bought by Sheikh Mohammed's bloodstock manager John Ferguson and offered from the Wigan family's West Blagdon Stud in Dorset.

The last time one stallion had a clean sweep of the Tattersalls foal leaderboard was in 1988, when youngsters by Sadler's Wells provided the top three prices – headed by a 300,000gns colt from West Blagdon.

Riding centres

Houses planned for site of third centre

PLANS to build houses on the site of a third equestrian centre in Hertfordshire have been submitted to the council.

Bucks Meadow Riding School closed on 30 September after 23 years as it was "not financially viable".

The application to build more than 30 houses on the site in Oxhey Village, Watford, was put to Hertsmere Borough Council on 28 October.

So far, the application has received 80 objections and seven letters of support.

This is the third application to build on an equestrian centre in Hertfordshire.

Patchetts, which is less than three miles away, shut in August and plans for a 58-house development in its place were put to councillors that month.

An application to develop South Medburn EC in Borehamwood – which is still open – was submitted in July.

Welfare

Record months for rehoming

A record-breaking number of horses have found a new home in the past two months, according to equine charity World Horse Welfare, writes Amy Mathieson.

The organisations' "rehome a horse month" in September helped 44 horses find somewhere new to live. In October a further 41 were rehomed – doubling the average number of around 23 rehomed each month throughout the rest of 2015.

The charity has recently launched a new website to help make the process easier. It currently has 1,700 horses out at homes around the UK.

"We are absolutely delighted to see the huge boost in the number of horses rehomed over the past two months, and would like to thank everyone who has supported us in reaching these figures," said World Horse Welfare's Tony Tyler.

"We're always adding new horses and ponies to our scheme and we've worked hard to promote the variety and quality of our horses, as well as the advantages of rehoming over buying or breeding.

"While it is very positive to see this boost, we still need to keep this momentum going, particularly as we've now entered the winter when we desperately need the space in our four rescue and rehoming centres to take in more horses in need of our help."

● To find out more visit:
www.rehoming.worldhorsewelfare.org

CASE STUDY

SPIKE arrived at World Horse Welfare in July 2011 as an emaciated yearling.

He was rehomed with Patricia Pomp in Suffolk in 2013.

Spike has been in work properly for around three months and has started competing in local dressage competitions and he recently won his first prelim.

"I would not hesitate in recommending rehoming to other horse owners as the charity has so many lovely horses just waiting for kind owners," said Pat.



OBITUARY

PETER WILLETT
HORSE & HOUND'S

authoritative bloodstock correspondent for more than 40 years, Peter Willett, died on

22 November aged 96.

"Peter was very highly regarded in the racing world," said former *H&H* editor Michael Clayton.

"His weekly column in *Horse & Hound* was a fount of knowledge for generations of bloodstock breeders. He made a major contribution to racing in general.

"Peter reviewed the entire race calendar for the Jockey Club in the late 1960s, and was a leading figure in the design of Pattern races, which ensured that highest-class performers peaked for the biggest races. The system was adopted in Europe and America.

"He was a co-founder of the European Breeders' Fund in 1983, persuading

stud farms to contribute prize money to put on races that the breeding industry needed, and he served on other committees making huge contributions to the standards of racing.

"At *Horse & Hound* his column arrived like tablets of stone from on high. I do not think we ever changed a word. We were so fortunate to have him as a contributor," added Mr Clayton.

Peter also wrote books including *The Classic Racehorse*, *Makers of the Modern Thoroughbred* and an authorised biography of Dick Hern.

He was elected a member of the Jockey Club in 1981 and was director of the National Stud.

Love the Mud



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Paul Scott

"Tommy now enjoys having his legs brushed - he is a very satisfied customer!"

Hayley Finch

"I believe in Love the SKIN he's in Mud Gard to keep my horse in good condition - whatever the weather!"

Jenny Townley

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www.naf-equine.eu/uk



Hunting

Cottesmore's Boxing Day meet declined

THE Cottesmore hunt has been denied permission to hold its traditional Boxing Day meet in an Oakham park.

Oakham Town Council made the decision on 25 November. It was not unanimous – two councillors voted to keep the meet, held in Cutts Close, with conditions, but the remaining seven present at the meeting voted against.

Hunt secretary Clare Bell told *H&H* it was a "shock" to have an age-old tradition declined.

"There is a huge feeling that it should be allowed," she said.

Between 700 and 1,000 people attend on foot each year. A petition calling for the council to reverse its decision had received more than 2,700 signatures when *H&H* went to press on Monday (30 November).

British Horse Society

Scott and Sanctos join hall of fame

WORLD number one showjumper Scott Brash is one of four equestrian greats to have been inducted into the British Horse Society's (BHS) hall of fame.

The BHS hall of fame celebrates the heroes and heroines – human and equine – of the equestrian world.

This year Olympic gold medallist Scott made history, becoming the first rider to win the Rolex Grand Slam of showjumping.

Scott's partner Hello Sanctos was also welcomed to the roll of honour.

"I think Hello Sanctos and I really understand one another," said Scott. "We just click as a partnership."

Showing producer and rider Jayne Ross and Lucinda Fredericks' prolific eventing mare Headley Britannia were also inducted.

"This is beyond my wildest dreams," said Jayne.

Legal

Fraudulent trader fined

A horse trader from north Staffordshire who used a registered vet's details fraudulently to obtain passports to sell his animals has been ordered to pay more than £3,500 in compensation, *writes Amy Mathieson*.

Mark Allman, 54, of Madeley Heath Farm, Madeley, pleaded guilty to 11 counts of fraud at Stafford Crown Court on 15 October.

Allman used the registration details of Moorlands vet Ian Elkington and a business stamp from Mr Elkington's practice, Moorlands Veterinary Centre in Leek, to obtain horse passports from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Allman was handed a two-year prison sentence – suspended for two years on each of the 11 offences – plus 200 hours unpaid community work, to be done in 12 months.

He was also ordered to pay £4,226 costs and compensation totalling £3,720.

The prosecution was brought by Staffordshire County Council's Trading Standards animal health team, which was alerted when one of the victims tried to trace a horse they had bought.

The signature on the horse's passport had apparently been signed by vet Ian Elkington, but further investigations revealed that Mr Elkington had been on holiday on the date the



passport was signed, meaning he could not possibly have signed it.

"Mark Allman went to great lengths to obtain passports for the horses he sold, using the name of a reputable vet and even going to the lengths of getting a business stamp made," said county councillor Gill Heath.

"Horses cannot be bought or sold without a passport by law, so by getting these passports, Mr Allman was able to sell a total of 10 horses and make an estimated £29,000.

"We are grateful that due to the vigilance of one buyer, we have been able to bring him to justice and alert the public to these issues."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Lee Pearson on Blue Circle Boy, p118

'Gus is a very expensive lawnmower now, enjoying retirement at home'

Olympics

Transfer deadline looms

OWNERS looking to secure new horses ahead of the 2016 Rio Olympics have until 15 January next year to complete the deal.

The "transfer window" of December is usually a busy time ahead of the Olympics.

For London 2012 several top horses were sold ahead of the deadline, including Titus, who went to Edwina Tops-Alexander of Australia from Guy Williams.

He was reunited with Guy Williams – but too late to be re-registered to Team GBR.

Talan was sold by Robert Smith and Di Cornish to the Saudi Equestrian Fund for Prince Faisal, but didn't make it onto the 2012 bronze medal-winning squad.



Titus was sold ahead of London 2012 but was swiftly returned

The deadline usually falls on 31 December. This time it is 15 January, so a flurry of sales is expected in the coming weeks.

"This was voted in at the 2013 FEI general assembly," said a spokesman for the FEI. "The reason for changing

the date is to take account of office closures over the Christmas and New Year period for all associated organisations."

● **For more on horses that have been transferred ahead of the deadline don't miss 10 December issue of *H&H*.**

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▲ HORSEY FILMS

Horseware's anniversary video *Made by horses, for horses* won the best non-broadcast award at the EQUUS Film Festival in New York (20-22 November). The video featured trainer Emma Massingale's Connemara ponies "working" in Horseware's factory.



▲ **THE INJURED JOCKEYS FUND**
Betfair raised £50,000 for the Injured Jockeys Fund with its #nationaljockeyday campaign. Every tweet with the hashtag raised £1 for the charity.

▲ **EQUESTRIAN FASHION**
Sporting Hares has celebrated receiving the fashion entrepreneur of the year award. The countryside fashion company collected the honour at the Entrepreneur Wales Awards (12 November).



▲ **A FUNDRAISING EVENING**
More than 100 supporters of the Mark Davies Injured Riders Fund gathered for "An Evening with Clare Balding", on 11 November. The event raised £7,000 for the charity.

GOOD WEEK BAD WEEK

▼ THEFT

A horse ambulance has been stolen from a barn in Ryarsh, Kent. Police are appealing for information after thieves cut the trailer free from its wheel clamp.



▼ A HORSE IN A HARROW

Sussex firefighters rescued a horse after it became trapped in a small harrow on 23 November. The animal was released by crews and was left in the care of the vet.



▼ FLOODED HORSES

Four horses became stuck in their field after flooding in Yorkshire. Racehorse trainer Andy Crook, 5ft 2in, came to their rescue by wading through the water and leading them to safety.

▼ SUSSEX PONIES

The Sussex Pony Grazing Conservation Trust has withdrawn its offer to loan its animals to graze on downland in Brighton due to concerns about the site's security.

Showjumping

'Running steward' hearing



IRISH showjumper Cian O'Connor and Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) will spend the day before Olympia at a legal hearing into the "running steward" incident at the European Championships, which they allege cost their showjumping team its Olympic place, writes Pippa Cuckson.

HSI appealed directly to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), and the case will be heard in London on 16 December.

At Aachen, Cian was in the middle of his round with Good Luck when a member of the arena party dashed across his path and jumped into the flowerbed that Cian was turning around before tackling an oxer. Cian says the distraction caused Good Luck to have his only fault of the round. Ireland lost out on a Rio place to Spain by 0.38pen.

On the day the incident occurred (21 August), HSI's protest and appeal were dismissed. The ground jury, presided over by Britain's Jon Doney, said Cian could have

stopped and signalled to the judges, but continued.

HSI's barristers are likely to argue that the rule cited, Article 233.3, was intended for a different circumstance, when there is a physical impediment such as a rail that has blown down.

However, the FEI is likely to rely on the fundamental usually upheld by CAS in other disputes over "field of play" decisions – that even if a judge's decision may be debateable, it is final except where arbitrariness can be proved.

Cian (pictured, above at Aachen) said: "I am confident that CAS has the power to rectify the FEI's failure to implement their own rules.

"It is not a level playing field unless someone was running around the arena while all the 39 other horses were jumping!

"Good Luck had been jumping great until then, but I had to alter my approach."

Legal

Negligence claim dismissed

A livery yard owner has had a claim of more than £75,000 against her dismissed – reassuring fellow business owners to fight their cases.

The yard owner, who wished to remain anonymous, runs a DIY yard of 45 horses.

The claimant was a 10-year-old girl who stabled a pony that she had on loan at the yard. The child took the pony off the yard on an unsupervised hack on 14 August 2012 and was thrown off – sustaining two fractures to her thoracic spine, which required surgery.

The child's solicitors said that as well as providing livery services, the owner was also responsible for the provision of riding lessons,

the pony's loan scheme, and for supervising minors while they were on the yard.

They claimed that the owner had been negligent by failing to ensure that the child was supervised while on the yard and that she should have prevented the girl from leaving the yard with the pony.

HorseSolicitor, representing the owner, said that she had no involvement with the loan scheme or the riding lessons and that the yard's policy was that children under 16 should not have been on the yard without supervision.

They added that the child's mother was, or should have been, aware of this because the yard rules were displayed prominently

in the office and in a contract she was provided with – but did not sign or return.

On 5 November a judge dismissed the claim, saying there was no obligation for the owner to have supervised the child on the yard.

"Yard owners should not have to worry about spurious claims damaging their reputation or profitability," said a HorseSolicitor spokesman. "Yard owners should ensure they have adequate insurance in place, including legal cover, to protect against such claims.

"We were able to reassure our client that the claim against her was unlikely to be successful and robustly defend it." **AM**

DIARY DATES 3-10 December

GO TO THE SALES

Brightwells' Elite December Auction of dressage, showjumping and event horses is at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre, Bucks, on 5 December.
www.brightwells.com

RACING

Enjoy National Hunt racing at Sandown at the Tingle Creek Christmas Festival on 4-5 December. Arrive in style with a free carriage ride from Esher train station.
sandown.thejockeyclub.co.uk

CHAMPIONSHIPS

The British Dressage small tour championships will be held at Houghton Hall Equestrian Centre, Cambs, on 5-6 December.
www.hheqc.co.uk

EXHIBITION

Work of equestrian artist Jacques-Chalom des Cordes will be on display at the Sladmore Gallery in Jermyn Street, London, on 2 December-31 January.
www.sladmore.com



FESTIVE FAIR

Do some Christmas shopping at the Westcountry Equine Fair in Westpoint, Exeter, on 5-6 December. Gifts for the Children's Hospice South West will also be collected during the fair.
www.westcountryequinefair.co.uk

SHOWJUMPING

Arena UK is holding a premier British Showjumping show on 3-6 December at its Lincolnshire base.
www.arenauk.com

DEMONSTRATION

Watch masterclasses and the RoR musical ride team at the Northern Racing College in Rossington on 6 December.
www.ror.org.uk

POINT-TO-POINT

Barbury racecourse is hosting the Point-To-Point Owners & Riders Club meet on 6 December.
www.pointtopoint.co.uk

And finally: ride a winner

EVER wanted to know what it feels like to ride a winner home? Well now you can, thanks to a new app by bookies William Hill.

The company's "Get in the Race" app, developed with production company Unit9, lets racing fans virtually "ride" in a real race as it happens.

Using GPS technology and 3D graphics, the user will be able to "sit" on the horse they have backed and see the race from the jockey's perspective.

You can also activate a "head up" display, which reveals your horse's heart rate, stride length, distance remaining and race position.

All you need is a smartphone and a Google Cardboard device (around £10) or an Oculus headset.

A prototype was launched in May as part of the Digital Shoreditch Festival and is now live for the public.

Jamie Hart, of William Hill, said the "Get in the Race" app is the first to offer fans this level of virtual reality. **LE**



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Letters



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LETTER OF THE WEEK

A victory for not winning

Further to Carl Hester's visit to the south-west British Young Rider Dressage Scheme (BYRDS) I wanted to write and let people know what a truly wonderful ambassador Carl is to our up-and-coming riders.

After the excitement of his arrival calmed down, he began talking, not about how amazing the winners were, but how fantastic the 43 children who had not won anything were.

He likened it to being on a yard with Charlotte and Valegro, knowing you are not going to come first. What a breath of fresh air.

I too believe that we are not all born champions, but with grit and determination we

must strive to be the best we can while keeping the enjoyment factor.

Every child (and, as importantly, parent) must remember it is not the end of the world if you don't always, if ever, win. It is about having a good time, meeting new friends and learning to be part of something special.

Thank you to Carl for coming and his words of wisdom. If an Olympian, international and national champion thinks it's ok not to always be a winner but be satisfied with your performance, I think we should all try to be ok with it.

JO LEES, BYRDS SOUTH-WEST REP

Malmesbury, Wilts

The writer of the letter of the week wins a bottle of Champagne Taittinger



WATCH THAT WORM

Sir – Further to your article on pinworm (news, 5 November), I agree with Edd Knowles that our understanding of Oxyuris equi (pinworm) has evolved.

With the exception of one tapeworm-specific drug on the market, all the worming drugs available are broad spectrum. Therefore when dosing against pinworm, all other worm species within the horse are exposed to the drug at the same time, including those species that have evolved to become drug resistant.

Effective pinworm treatment is as much about good management as chemical intervention. Anthelmintic (wormer) resistance is a growing problem, and it is paramount that we use the worming drugs we have sustainably to ensure they last into the future to allow us to treat parasites of clinical significance when required.

While pinworm cannot be left

unmanaged, it is not a parasite of clinical significance associated with intestinal disease. Hygiene practices are paramount to break the pinworm's lifecycle.

The eggs are excreted outside the anus, therefore regular cleaning of the area to remove eggs will help break the pinworm life cycle in infected animals.

Cleaning grooming kit and areas that horses rub against will also help prevent reinfection or spreading to other animals.

Simon Daniels, lecturer in equine gastrointestinal health and disease, Royal Agricultural University

THE OLYMPIC IDEAL

Sir – Am I the only person who thinks that horses and riders competing at the Olympics is inappropriate? The Olympic ideal is to pit one human against another to establish who is the best on equal terms, as far as possible. Including horses with different abilities distorts this.

Seeking to change the rules of

popular sports – eg. three-day eventing – to satisfy the demands of the International Olympic Committee (news, 26 November) has not lent anything to either the sport or the Olympics. When the roads and tracks phase was dropped it changed the sport radically without the benefit of increased numbers of nations taking part.

Dropping the equestrian sports will also save organising nations considerable monies.

AJ Braybrooke

Crediton, Devon

H&H acting print director Pippa Roome: "It's an interesting idea that the horse element distorts the Olympic ideal, but I don't think we should give up without a fight."

Olympic inclusion increases the prestige of equestrianism, giving more sway with sponsors and owners, and gaining us TV time.

"That said, I agree we can only sacrifice so much – we need to try to satisfy the IOC without ruining the sport we know and love."

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HOORAY FOR RIDING SCHOOLS

Sir – I have been following the recent debate (news, 5 November; letters, 29 October, 5, 12 and 19 November) and I believe riding schools are like restaurants: some are McDonalds, some Michelin starred. Most know their market and their niche, and offer what is popular, safe, less likely to attract ambulance-chasing solicitors, and what pays the bills – and boy, there are a lot of bills!

Any riding school that fails to understand this will not last. So, yes, you may find instructors and grooms can't command amazing pay; yes, simple ponies and steady cobs are safe and the norm (but can teach you loads); and the best instructors do not always want to teach the beginners (nor do some beginners want to ride like classical dressage riders).

But riding schools do what they need to do to survive in what are difficult times.

We work tirelessly to deliver a great experience whatever your budget and ambitions, offering a great spread of riding from "budget burgers", "glorious gourmet" and even BYO!

So until you run your own centre, like us, please do not judge, but support your local riding school.

*Sophie and Andrew Osborne
 Cheston Farm EC, Devon*

A SHOWING OXYMORON?

Sir – One of the more distressing sights at big shows are the horses in show hunter classes. The very name is an oxymoron. When you notice their shine is largely cosmetic and begin to see the flab, you realise you are looking at a living ornament.

The problem of horse obesity will not be resolved until the showing fraternity takes it seriously. Showing for showing's sake leads to freaks. We only need to look at show dogs to see the horrid results of ornamental

showing, yet we seem reluctant to do anything positive.

Consider this example of timidity: a local riding club committee expressed concern about obesity and it was suggested that the entry conditions for the club's show should exclude obese horses.

The suggestion was that two stewards each independently condition score horses that seemed obese using an established body condition score index, e.g. the British Horse Society index. A horse with an index score of a given value or greater, e.g. four, would be excluded from the class. Such an approach would be similar to excluding a horse with a wound. It seemed a clear, fair approach.

The committee's response was that condition scoring would be too expensive, because it would require a vet to administer it.

*Brian Osman
 Boxted, Essex*

SEEING THE BRIGHT SIDE

Sir – Riders who favour drab greens and browns of the 1940s over modern hi-viz gear don't know what they are missing.

They'll never experience the sight of a helicopter do the aerial equivalent of a 20m loop off the track to avoid them, rather than pass directly overhead.

They are unlikely to witness quad bikers do "canter to halt" 200m ahead, switch off their engines and sheepishly reply "That's alright love" as they are thanked for stopping.

And their chances of being treated to the sight of a pair of HGVs performing some nifty manoeuvres on either side of a bridgeway that spans a 60mph road to allow you to cross in between – they can forget that.

But as a hi-viz wearer this is my reality and, like my horse and my life, I love it! Give people a chance to be thoughtful – make sure they can see you.

*Sarah Allen
 Yateley, Hants*

EDITORIAL COMMENT

WITH the ebb and flow of another equestrian year, I'm reminded what a generous and widely talented creature the horse is. From the incredible grit shown by Grand National winner Many Clouds to the sky-high trainability and willingness of Loughnatousa WB, who scooped his second Hickstead Derby – under two different riders – horses truly are remarkable. Then there's Hello Sanctos, La Biosthetique-Sam FBW, Valegro and all the other equine athletes who've contributed to a thrilling year of sport.

At every level we, as owners, take responsibility for the precious horses in our care having good lives, and also good deaths (news, p4-5).

Euthanasia shouldn't only be considered if every other avenue has been exhausted; it is a legitimate option in many situations, and not just when the horse is already severely compromised.

Ask yourself: is it fair to put my old horse through this colic operation? Should I sell this mare who isn't sound enough to ride and can't (or shouldn't) produce foals?

Putting a horse down is quite often the sensible and humane decision in difficult situations. If a horse is no longer useful and the owner can't or doesn't want to pay for it to live out a happy retirement in the field, euthanasia is a perfectly reasonable route. It may sound unpalatable, but it's the ultimate way of protecting horse welfare in these cases. Better that, surely, than giving away the horse or selling it on, without knowing where it may end up.



Alice Collins

Acting print director

[@msAliceCollins](#)

NEXT WEEK

FEELING FESTIVE

OLYMPIA PREVIEW

Get ready for the Christmas extravaganza with our guide



H&H INTERVIEW

Nico de Boinville

SHOWJUMPING

Graham Fletcher comment

DRESSAGE

Small tour championships

FEATURE

Olympic old-timers: horses who have taken different riders to an Olympic Games

HUNTING

Tiverton, Suffolk and Andrew Sallis comment

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'The best of my fun, I owe it to...'

Warm-up tip...

Save a horse's good jumps for the ring. I spend no more than 10 minutes in the showjumping warm-up so that I go in on a fresh horse. The pros are so precise – turning to a fence, cantering, jumping, walking and patting. Their horses don't get fed up, tired or flat.



The best present I've ever given...

A pink scooter (left) for my mum for her birthday.

Favourite city...

London. It has such a buzz and I love the West End. It takes

me 40 minutes by train and I like to visit for a night out when I can.

When I'm in the lorry I'm listening to...

A *Now That's What I Call Music!* CD. My mum does a lot of the driving and she loves Rod Stewart – I know all the words.

Favourite pub...

The Red Lion (below) in Handcross. I love the food, wine and its homely feel. We have work nights out there.



GEMMA TATTERSALL

The eventer on fast cars, an overflowing wardrobe and singing along to Rod Stewart

My earliest equestrian memory...

Hanging on to a New Zealand ug while my mum led a horse to the field, before I could even walk.

The best advice...

Pippa Funnell said that if a horse is being naughty, be firm – but your heartbeat should never be raised. If it is, the horse has won and you should get off, cool down, then go back. I say the same to the girls now – be firm, but in a calm, productive way.

My biggest indulgence...

Shoes and dresses. I can't go shopping and not buy something. My wardrobe is overflowing. I like wearing new things, the more sparkly the better. Maybe it's because I'm used to being in breeches.

When I'm tucking into...

Steak, chips and a bottle of wine. I love eating – going out for dinner and drinks with family or friends is a favourite pastime. I'm not naturally skinny though, and I have to remind myself that I'm an athlete.

If I could speak to my 15-year-old self...

I would say "there's always another day". You have to think like that. They are horses, we are human and mistakes happen. I used to get so worked up, thinking it was my only chance, but now I'm more mature and positive, and the results have started to come.

The best date I've ever been on...

Not long after Matt Heath (inset) and I got together we went to Barbados. It was spontaneous, the weather was beautiful and we had a wonderful time getting to know each other with no one else around.



I am secretly a fan of...

Miniature horses. I'm also obsessed with kittens, puppies – anything that's small and cute.

My steepest learning curve...

I fell off Kings Gem at Badminton in 2011. She was very fast and had an even faster brain. I'd only just got her back for a fence and her brain was still thinking too quickly. It was a hard lesson to learn because I hit the deck and had no idea why. Yogi Breisner explained and I took that lesson on to Arctic Soul (main picture, and below) – get the brain at the same speed as the legs.

My superstitions...

I never ride in anything new. At the Europeans (pictured, below) I had my team jacket and new boots, which I paraded around in and took off before I put them back on to ride. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** dressage rider Steph Croxford



MY PLAN B: if it hadn't been eventing...

I'd have been a racing car driver. My brother raced go-karts so I had a taster of the industry. I drive a second series BMW and enjoy going fast. It would have been another type of horsepower.

Outstanding Results

*Windle Archer at Osberton CCI
ridden by Ryck Turner and
owned with Clare Valori*



Photograph by E. S. Photography

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For the horses: an all-weather canter track, 60x60m all-weather arena, judging box, 17 stables and three tack rooms. Set in 14 acres.

£1.25m ECR Properties, 07767 327327, www.ecrproperties.com



Burley Heyes Stables, **CHESHIRE**

For you: a two-bedroom cottage with an open plan farmhouse kitchen/dining room plus a recently converted flat with three bedrooms in the centre of the stable yard.

For the horses: a one-mile, circular, all-weather gallop; 26 loose boxes, a tack room, feed room and a five-horse walker. There is a separate horsebox entrance with plenty of space for parking. Set in 81.33 acres.

£1.7m Jackson Equestrian, 01928 740555, www.jacksonequestrian.com



Loretta Lodge, **SURREY**

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For the horses: a five-furlong, circular, all-weather gallop; a five-furlong, straight, all-weather uphill gallop; a main yard with 47 boxes; two isolation yards and an equine pool. Set in 104 acres.

£4.575m Savills, 01737 230 202, www.savills.co.uk

● **NEXT WEEK:** equestrian properties with indoor schools



CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

17th December issue

Display - 10th December

Classified - 11th December

Horses For Sale - 14th December

24th December issue

Display - 14th December

Classified - 15th December

Horses For Sale - 16th December

31st December issue

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7th January issue

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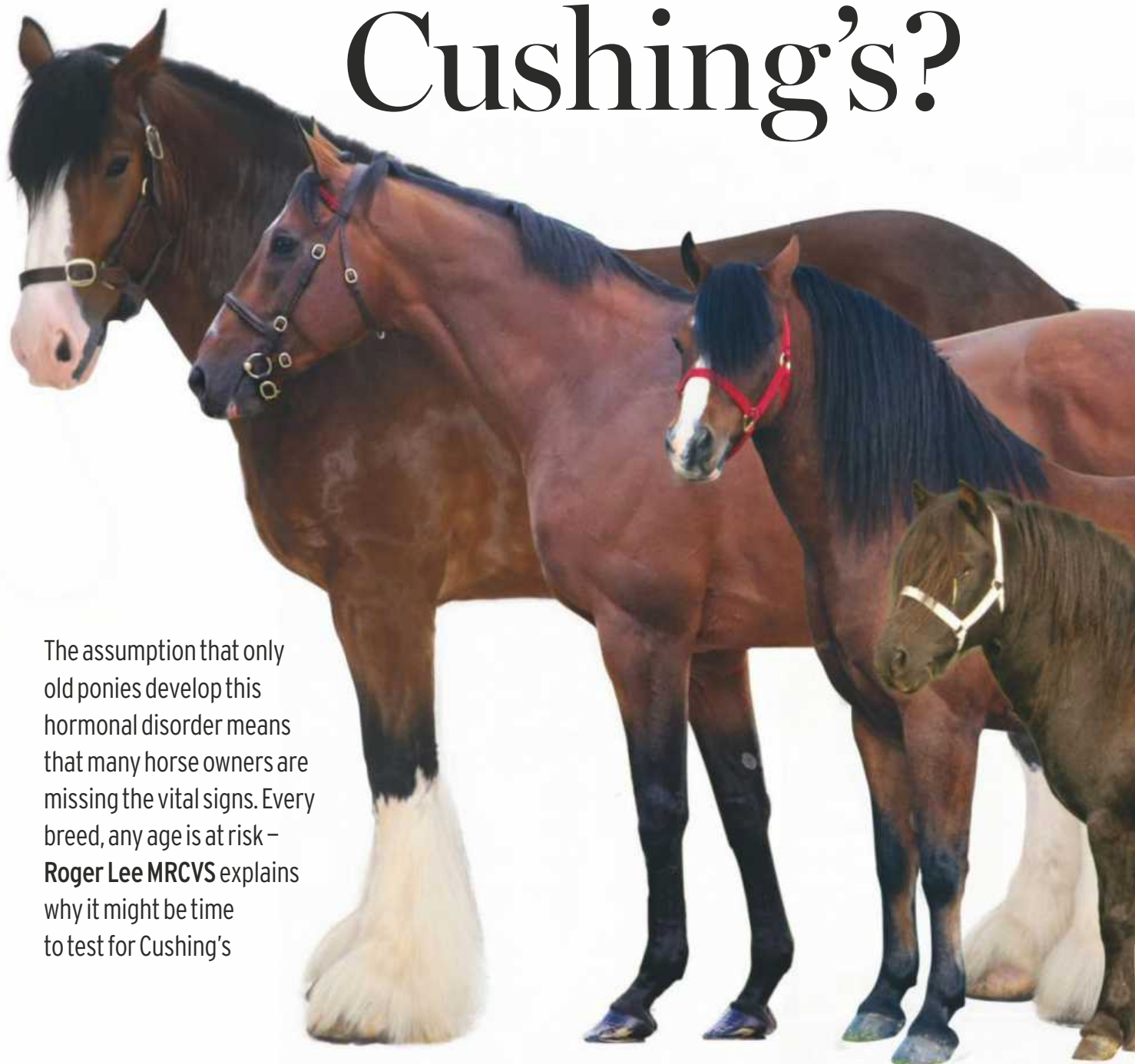
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Could it be Cushing's?



The assumption that only old ponies develop this hormonal disorder means that many horse owners are missing the vital signs. Every breed, any age is at risk – **Roger Lee MRCVS** explains why it might be time to test for Cushing's

TEN years ago a mention of equine Cushing's disease would draw blank looks from the majority of owners. The condition is well known today, but to many it still conjures up an image of an ancient and shaggy-coated pony. In fact, Cushing's is equally common in horses and ponies and is considerably more widespread than many owners realise.

Any breed, from Shire to Shetland, can be affected, and it isn't limited to the very old, either. Up to 30% of horses over the age of 15 have the condition, yet it can occur in horses of 10 or even younger. Vets now recognise that Cushing's disease is less an illness and more of an age-related deterioration in a part of the brain, a fact that means that no horse is immune. The age of onset and the severity may vary, but if your

horse lives long enough he will eventually get Cushing's.

Subtle clues

THE classic signs of Cushing's include a long, curly coat that isn't properly shed; a dipped back and pot belly; sweating; fat bulges above the eyes and increased drinking.

But the one sign that is the most significant is laminitis. Cushing's disease greatly increases the

Not just old, shaggy ponies: Cushing's disease affects horses of any breed and size, and can occur in horses aged 10 and younger



THE FACTS

- CUSHING'S disease in horses is not the same as it is in humans or dogs. The equine version is correctly termed Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID), but it is more commonly referred to as Cushing's.
- The signs of Cushing's result from overstimulation of the pituitary gland, an area at the base of the brain that produces a number of key hormones. While a nerve transmitter called dopamine usually keeps a brake on these hormone levels, when

Cushing's is present the release of dopamine decreases. As a result, hormone production goes into overdrive.

- Hormones such as adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) have key roles in regulating body systems, but too much of them results in clinical signs of the disease. Cushing's can be diagnosed by measuring the rise in ACTH.
- Pergolide, the drug used to treat Cushing's, works by increasing the effectiveness of dopamine and so returning ACTH and other hormone levels to normal.

the sample is then separated and chilled for sending to the laboratory.

The difference between normal and abnormal levels of adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH), which is measured, varies during the year. It is greatest between August and October, making this the most accurate time of the year for testing.

A positive result will confirm Cushing's. Occasionally, however, the result may be normal yet a strong suspicion of Cushing's remains. In these cases a second, more sensitive test can be carried out, which involves injecting a small amount of a hormone and taking blood samples before and after.

Effective – but pricey

WHILE no owner wants their horse to test positive for Cushing's, the good news for animals that do is that there is a simple and effective treatment.

A drug called pergolide – marketed under the brand name Prascend – is given daily in tablet form. Improvement is usually seen within a few weeks; as hormone levels begin to return to normal, any curly coat is shed, laminitis resolves and energy levels increase. The premature ageing triggered by Cushing's goes into reverse and the horse may start to look and behave as if he is several years younger.

After a month on treatment the blood test should be repeated to check that the levels of ACTH are back under control. The horse is then retested approximately every six months – your vet will advise depending on the initial levels and the degree of clinical signs.

The only significant side effect of the treatment is a temporary loss of appetite by some horses. This usually returns in a few days, but the initial dose may need to be halved.

A simple, once-a-day treatment that really works? Nothing with

horses is ever that easy, so there has to be a catch somewhere.

In this case, it is the cost. Each tablet will set you back just over £1 – not a huge sum, perhaps, until you realise that a horse with Cushing's will be on treatment for the rest of his life and that the dose usually needs to increase over time. Ultimately horses can be on three or more tablets a day.

Vets are extremely keen to see cheaper pergolide made available, because at present some horses and ponies are put to sleep by conscientious owners who cannot afford the ongoing cost of treatment.

The manufacturers of Prascend do offer free tests at certain times of year, but this is only for new cases. Herbal remedies for Cushing's, such as chasteberry, have not shown any lowering of hormone levels, so save your money for the proper treatment.

When to treat?

TESTS can sometimes reveal levels of ACTH that are more than 10 times the normal. Clearly, these cases need immediate treatment. However, Cushing's is a gradual and progressive condition, so horses in the early stages of developing the disease may show just a small rise in levels of the hormone.

Where there are no significant clinical signs it may be decided – given the cost of pergolide – that treatment does not need to commence straight away. Such cases should be monitored and retested, and it is important for owners to be aware of the increased laminitis risk and manage them accordingly. Cushing's also suppresses the immune system, so untreated horses are more prone to infections and to worms.

Each case needs to be judged as an individual. As a rough guide, however, treatment is advisable if ACTH levels are up by more than a third.

The important thing for owners to remember is that while Cushing's disease can be controlled, it cannot be cured. Nonetheless, with treatment and careful management, affected horses can continue to enjoy a good quality of life for many years. H&H

• NEXT WEEK: ketamine, and the latest in veterinary research



laminitis risk, and can frequently be the underlying cause of an attack in an animal who is not showing any other signs of the condition.

For this reason, any laminitic episode in an older horse or pony should alert you to the need to test. Some horses with Cushing's may show very little except a general lack of energy and enthusiasm.

Testing for Cushing's is not difficult – a blood test is taken and

Further reading

www.horseandhound.co.uk/cushings-disease

Will Biddick

The point-to-point rider talks to **Rebecca Haywood** about keeping his cool, quitting as a professional jockey and his bid to retain his champion title

LAST season Will Biddick not only captured his fourth consecutive national men's title, but made history by riding an unprecedented 68 point-to-point winners.

The Cornishman ensured that barely a weekend went by without at least scoring a double, treble or four-timer.

"I think the most was five in a day," says Will, 28.

The former British record of 56 wins was set by Oliver Greenall in 2008 and equalled by his brother Tom the following season.

With a fascinating addiction to winning, it's clear Will has no plans to bow out yet. Quite the opposite, in fact.

"As long as I'm riding I want to win the title," he says. "I'm not going to just fizzle out."

Despite Will's strong willpower, drive and determination, he's not living the high life just yet. Although his home address of Manor Farm in Somerset (not the same Manor Farm as Paul Nicholls) sounds smart enough, Will is happy with his bachelor pad in a converted flat above the tack room.

"This is my third year living in Somerset and I love it here," he says. "I

divide my time between riding out for Paul Nicholls and Jack Barber, while having a few hunters at the yard here."

Catching the bug

WILL came into competitive riding later than most, with no previous experience in any other disciplines.

"I always had an interest for farming but no background in the Pony Club or showjumping, only hunting with the North Cornwall," he says. "I was around 16 when I started to take a bit of an interest in racing and I had one ride on a schoolmaster. At first I didn't enjoy it all. I fell off more than I got round."

It wasn't until Will was offered a place as an amateur jockey at Venetia Williams' yard in Herefordshire, through a family friend, that his career started to take a different direction.

"I was 18 by then and ever since I have been hooked on racing," says Will. "At the time I wouldn't have known what was right or wrong, but if I hadn't got out of Cornwall I wouldn't be where I am today. I owe a lot to Venetia for turning me from a farmer into a jockey."

However, it wasn't all plain sailing for Will, who turned conditional for a time, then returned to amateur ranks in October 2010.

"I made a go of it for 12 months and rode quite a few winners for Venetia, but I really struggled with my weight," he says. "I had to accept it wasn't for me and I decided to go home and pick up farming again."

A chance conversation with trainer Harry Fry led to Will returning to the saddle and riding out for point-to-point legend Richard Barber. "That was a massive turning point for me," says Will, who won his first national men's championship in the 2011/12 point-to-point season.

Most of his winners in his first three seasons came from the Barber yard, before Richard retired in 2014 and handed down to his grandson Jack.

"I'm lucky to be in this position and Paul Nicholls is a massive supporter of me and Jack," adds Will. "We have up to 50 pointers going through Jack's yard in one season, so it's busy. It's also



Will wins a men's open at Bratton Down on Round Tom in 2013, the year of his second national men's championship title – 'I nearly always ride a horse like it's going to win'

great that we have such good racing in the south-west — it's probably the most competitive area in the country."

Will credits his continuing success to experience and riding lots of horses.

"I've found that riding so many enables you to judge a horse quickly. Of course I get a real buzz from riding a good horse with lots of ability, but also winning on a horse no one is expecting to win gives me a lot of satisfaction."

Sussing out the opposition

WILL believes self-confidence is a huge factor in this adrenalin-pumping sport.

"I nearly always ride a horse like it's going to win," he says. "I have to think I'm on the best horse and ride with confidence to give the horse confidence. This sometimes intimidates other riders and puts them under pressure — making them do things that they maybe shouldn't. You can push them into making mistakes without hindering your own ride."

A common error that Will notices on course is going too fast, too soon.

"It took me years to understand but you have to allow your horse to have a breather. Keeping cool and calm will help the horse relax. You need the



Addicted to winning: Will is aiming to break the record for the most point-to-point wins in a lifetime



optimum energy during the last half a mile of the race," he adds. "I used to ride aggressively, but now I ride very quietly whether I'm in front or behind as it gets the horse into a rhythm and I find it's my job to sit still and steer, while the horse does the work. There's not a right or wrong way, but it works for me."

While Will is race-riding he is determined to dominate his sport.

"I'm a fat fish in a little pond," he says. "I have to keep going hard as there's always a young gun coming up the ranks. I want to make it as difficult as possible for somebody to achieve what I have. I'm setting out to break a lot of records."

These include upping his tally to six or possibly seven wins in a day and recording the most point-to-point wins in a lifetime. Other than retaining his title, Will's biggest aim this season is to win the Fox Hunters' Chase at Aintree. He finished second this year riding Pacha Du Polder for Paul Nicholls.

'I love a good party'

ONE of the perks of Will's job is that he gets to hunt twice a week with the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale.

"I'm lucky that point-to-pointing is

so intrinsically linked to hunting," says Will, who has maintained his passion for hunting since he was a small child. Point-to-point horses must have hunted for at least four days to take part.

"I get a real adrenalin buzz from jumping massive ditches in front of big wide hedges, and not knowing where you're going to end up," he says. "Hunting is seriously good for young horses to show them the big wide world. They learn manners, to walk, trot and canter in open countryside with other horses and to find their own feet."

"It also teaches them to gallop and breathe when they are cantering. They finish up more mature and it certainly shows on the day which horses have been hunted and which haven't."

After his dedication to his sport, Will's second love is partying — "I'm always up for a good time and I love a good party."

While being content with his current bachelor lifestyle, Will doesn't deny he's looking for love.

"Can you pop my mobile number in at the end of the article, please?" he jokes.

Erm, no, sorry Will. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** National Hunt jockey Nico de Boinville

4 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT WILL BIDDICK

1 Will won the Freddie Williams Plate at the Cheltenham Festival in 2009 riding Something Wells — "the biggest win of my career so far".

2 Two of his favourite rides are also two of the smallest — Queen's Bay, whom he rides for Jack Barber, and Bathwick Scanno (only 15.1hh), trained by Teresa Clark.

"They are both really tough and game," says Will. "They jump exceptionally well and can cut corners on the bends. They can get into places other horses can't and are just gutsy little creatures."

3 Last year Will attended a two-day course on sheep-shearing.

"I sheared 105 sheep in one day — it was a lot of hard work," he says.

4 Will doesn't suffer from nerves.

"The more relaxed I've become the more I've improved as a rider and my results have got better," he says. "I'm more chilled out and I've learnt to accept defeat."

Move it like... Phillip Miller

The showjumper on not relying on school walls, escaping the hustle at shows and running on empty

Pace yourself

- I always think I should go to the gym, but then I see a bar of chocolate and have that instead. But I do muck out, clip and clean tack – everything a groom does.
- I once tried a pedometer app on my phone at the yard and couldn't believe that I covered 5km in a day. I would never dream of going out to walk that far.

Quiet, please!

- If I'm feeling the pressure at a big show I'll either go really quiet or completely the other way – laughing and joking in an attempt to ignore what's happening.
- Learn what works for you. I'm better taking myself off quietly with my horse to escape the hustle and bustle.

Running on empty

- I know it's bad but I never eat breakfast – just a cup of tea and then I'm on the yard – and I'll grab anything for lunch. I've no idea where I get my energy from. It's working for me at the moment, but when it doesn't I'll have to think again.

EVERY showjumping horse needs to learn to move in a straight line without the support of the wall. To achieve this, I spend time working my horses anywhere but on the outside track, so that they have to use themselves and stay in balance. After cantering around the short end of the school I'll turn down the three-quarter line. I then pick a target at the other end of the school and try to canter straight towards it. The aim is to come off the corner and soften the hand so that the horse maintains rhythm and direction.

A young horse will still need some support from the wall, but this is a useful exercise to introduce a little further along in his education. It's not as easy as it sounds, however.

Start off in walk if your horse is younger or unbalanced, using your outside leg to provide support. Widen your hands to offer him guidance, but try to sit straight. Take your time and keep working on it, making sure you can do the exercise in trot before trying it in canter.

It's very difficult to ride a horse in a truly straight line. Master it now and you'll do it without thinking in the big outdoor grass arenas next season.

Weigh up your chances

- Occasionally I'll surrender a win rather than blow the horse's brain. If I see a few go as fast as anything in the jump-off, or if a turn looks dodgy and lots of riders are cutting right in, I'll settle instead for a high placing. I'm often told that I'm too laid-back, but there's always another day for the horse. **H&H**

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Overall impression

"She's a lovely model of a horse," says showjumping commentator Steve Hadley. "She's a big, rangey mare, quite lengthy and scopey in her conformation, and she looks match fit."

"I've spent a lifetime buying Irish horses and with Molly's name, colour and type I'd have put money on there being some Irish draught in her background. But her breeder, Keith Doyle, tells me there's none as far as he knows."

"Her dam, Janini, was a good showjumping mare by the German stallion Cavalier, a top grand prix and Nations Cup horse under Franke Sloothaak. Her sire was the hugely successful showjumper Kannan, who also sired Olympic gold medallist Nino Des Buissonnets."

"So she's bred to jump. No wonder she makes those grand prix tracks look easy – and she can do it at a gallop."

Legs

"Purists might say that she's a bit straight in front and upright in the pasterns, but she has enough bone to carry it off," says Steve. "While her hocks are lovely and clean, some jumping people might like to see them a little further underneath her."

"I'm told that Kannan was a big, hefty slab of a horse, which may be where Molly gets her legs. He was extremely light on his feet, however, and a great mover. Janini also had an extravagant step, and that lightness and agility comes out in performance."





Molly Malone V

It seems there's no dirt to dig on this showjumping megastar

WHAT'S not to love about showjumping megastar Molly Malone V? The distinctive grey mare is quickly becoming the darling of the international circuit, in the capable hands of young Irish rider Bertram Allen.

As satisfying as it might be to reveal a wildchild youth, there's no dirt to dig on Molly. From the pretty first foal of a jumping mare, to the eager-to-please youngster producing clockwork clears with Sian Edwards (née Price), she has risen to the top in impeccable style.

Sian remembers the "little and weak" four-year-old she bought in 2008.

"She was a perfect project," says Sian. "She was perhaps a bit too careful and had to learn to stretch for the back bars, but she always wanted to jump."

At the Addington young horse championships, aged five, Molly's consistent clears won Sian a bonus cash prize. "It was the way she did it — she jumped miles above every fence," recalls Sian, who then turned the mare out to grow.

"On the Spanish Sunshine Tour the next year she was the leading six-year-old, jumping 12 clears in 12 rounds. She was unbelievable," adds Sian, who sold the mare — with great reluctance — shortly afterwards.

Soon after starting their career together, Molly and Bertram secured individual silver at the 2013 junior European Championships. Their list of triumphs since winning their first five-star grand prix in Lummen in 2014 includes an individual World Equestrian Games seventh and a World Cup qualifier.

"She's sometimes a little too enthusiastic," Bertram laughs. "She has fight in her and doesn't back down from anything, but she's still so careful. She has always wanted to do the right thing."

"We knew she'd be good, but she has surpassed all our expectations." **H&H**

● NEXT WEEK: hunt hero Bisto

Head and neck

"I'm instantly drawn to Molly's wonderful head and expression," says Steve. "She has a very kind and generous eye with big ears, which I love. Honesty is written all over her, which goes hand in hand with her consistent performances."

"Her neck comes out of her shoulders in a proper way, not upside down, and that always makes it easier to get a horse on the bridle. She has a nicely sloping shoulder, too."

16.1hh 11yo grey mare

Stable name: Molly

Breeder: Keith Doyle

Owner: Ballywalter Farms

Rider: Bertram Allen. Previously Billy Twomey and Sian Edwards

Successes: junior European Championships individual silver 2013; winner Leszno three-star grand prix 2013; winner Lummen five-star grand prix 2014; winner Dublin five-star grand prix 2014; winner WEG opening speed leg & individual seventh 2014; winner Verona World Cup qualifier 2014; winner Las Vegas World Cup final opening speed leg & third overall 2015; winner Geesteren three-star grand prix 2015; winner Dinard five-star grand prix 2015.

Kannan

Voltaire

Cemeta
(by Nimmerdor)

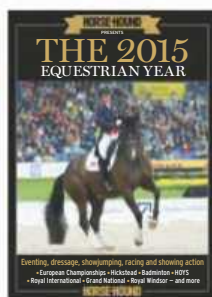
Janini

Cavalier

Anini
(by Pion)

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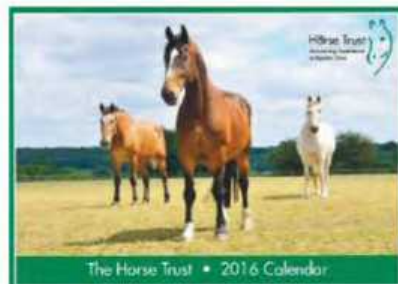


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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2015

25-1 — the odds on Grand National winner Many Clouds

FIRST
STALLION TO WIN BADMINTON
CHILLI MORNING

17,000
grand prix spectators
in Aachen for the Euros

age of jockey Nico de Boinville when he took the Cheltenham Gold Cup

25

£230,000

money raised for the
Injured Jockeys Fund
at the Cheltenham
Festival



1st — German rider to triumph at a British four-star, when Michael Jung took the Burghley title

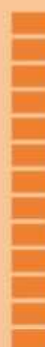


19
age of the oldest
horse at the
Hickstead Derby

TWO
Prices in the top five at
Burghley — husband and
wife, Tim and Jonelle

9 the number of wins
last season by the
women's point-to-point
champion, Gina Ellis

13
age of showing star
The Humdinger, who
retired at HOYS



160,000
glasses of Pimm's
drunk at Royal Ascot

*5th — HOYS supreme horse
title for Jayne Ross*

89.054%
Charlotte and
Valegro's winning
freestyle score
in Aachen

8
13hh — height
of RIHS supreme
pony champion
Beat The Boss

the number of winners
saddled by Willie Mullins
at the Cheltenham Festival

0.76

of a penalty — the British showjumping
team narrowly missed out on a bronze
medal at the Europeans





The sun sets over the Dulverton Farmers huntsman 'Bones' Allibone and his hounds on Exmoor

The year in pictures

Tears, champagne and selfies — *H&H* captures 2015's special moments



Give us a hug: Jayne Ross shows her appreciation for Time 2 Reflect, supreme champion at RIHS



Ryan Moore is mobbed after landing a record ninth winner at Royal Ascot, aboard Aloft

Pictures by racingfotos.com, www.hamishmitchellphotography.co.uk, www.sarahfarnsworth.co.uk, Bill Selwyn and Peter Nixon



Winter scene: a North Cotswold hound takes a look over a wall on a snowy January day



The Queen presents the British eventing team with their silver medals at Blair's European Championships



Former three-time champion Flat jockey Richard Hughes celebrates his final ride, at Goodwood in August



Trevor Breen defends his Hickstead Derby title with Loughnatousa WB, himself also a former winner



Jubilation as Coneygree, under Nico de Boinville, lands the Cheltenham Gold Cup on his fourth run over fences

US Triple Crown winner American Pharoah lands the Breeders' Cup Classic on his final start



A bowler selfie: stewards find time to record the moment at Royal Windsor Horse Show



The Belvoir Hunt make the most of an atmospheric autumn morning



Badminton backdrop: Chilli Morning (William Fox-Pitt) becomes the first stallion to win the Gloucestershire CC14*



The toughest man in racing sheds a tear: AP McCoy rides at the Cheltenham Festival for the final time



Behind the scenes at Dublin Horse Show as a horse is primped and prepared to perfection



Vegas baby: Charlotte Dujardin gets into the spirit after retaining her World Cup title with a wide-margin win

Horses of the year

Medal-gleaning, unbeatable and judge-dazzling —
we celebrate the equine heroes of 2015



Is there anything 'Blueberry' can't do? Reigning world, Olympic and European champion, the number one dressage horse also holds all three world records

Valegro

HOW could we leave out the spectacular 13-year-old gelding, currently world, Olympic and European champion? He retained his World Cup title in Las Vegas and helped secure Britain team silver at the Europeans in Aachen, en route to nailing double individual gold with Charlotte Dujardin for the fourth championship in a row. In doing so, "Blueberry" has held on to all three world records, and has sealed his position at the top of the FEI rankings for the fourth consecutive year.

Carinsio



THIS has been a stellar year for this Painted Black eight-year-old. Under Becky Moody he has dominated the UK small tour circuit, taking the inter I and prix st georges (PSG) titles at the British Dressage (BD) winter championships, claiming inter I victories at both Hartpury and Hickstead CDIs before beating Woodlander Farouche to the inter I freestyle at the BD summer nationals with a whopping

80.5%. The pair capped off the season with victory in the Mount St John Future Elite championship at Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) and the Moet & Chandon PSG freestyle challenge at Bury Farm.

River Rise Escarla



THIS remarkable six-year-old and her rider Sadie Smith have been beaten only a handful of times this year. The pair wowed at the BD winter championships, winning both novice open titles, before going on to finish second in the elementary open class at the summer championships just five months later. The Lord Leatherdale mare also won the six-year-old national title at Hickstead this summer, and the pair's year has ended on a high, having been selected for the World Class Equine Pathway.

Persimmon



KITTY KING'S ride, owned by Jane and Frank Inns, led the British team to silver at the European Championships at Blair. "Percy" finished just 0.1 of a penalty off an individual medal, payback for years of hard work with this talented but quirky horse for the Wiltshire rider.

"He's been a tricky horse, but that's what makes him want to do the job and he needs that as he is tiny — 16.1hh on his tiptoes in big shoes," said Kitty at Blair.

KBIS Briarlands Matilda



OFTEN under the radar, Guy Avis' Matilda stepped in when Izzy Taylor's initial ride for the European Championships, Allercombe Ellie, suffered an injury. She produced one of only three cross-country clears inside the time to finish sixth.

“Each year I start the season thinking, I have this horse and that horse for teams, and then they’ve fallen by the wayside. Through it all Matilda is there ready and waiting for me,” Izzy told *H&H* in a recent interview.

Broadshard Simplicity



FEW thought it would be possible, but this seven-year-old dazzled the judges to stand supreme for the second year running at HOYS — a rare feat indeed. The large riding horse endured a long day — he left home at 3am — but lost none of his sparkle, a new fitness regime on polo canter tracks possibly giving him the edge.

“Saucy” was advertised for sale earlier in the year but didn’t sell — “I think people thought he’d achieved all he could,” said his rider Jayne Ross.

Hello Sanctos

THE 13-year-old gelding helped Scott Brash jump into the history books by claiming the €1m Rolex Grand Slam of Showjumping. Sanctos, who is owned by Lord and Lady Harris and Lady Kirkham, produced the sole clear round under Scott in the grand slam’s third leg at Spruce Meadows, having already triumphed in the first two legs at Aachen and Geneva.



2018 BR
Rolex Grand Slam winners Hello Sanctos and Scott Brash, an outstanding partnership of 2015

Sarum Rembrandt

THE Joyners’ Welsh section A stallion dazzled under the NEC’s spotlights to clinch the HOYS supreme pony title, ridden by Sarah Parker. To qualify for the supreme the stunning grey with oodles of character overcame one of the strongest sections of the show — 18 ponies contested the National Pony Society/Baileys ridden native championship.

Sarum Rembrandt earned his Olympia ticket at the British Show Pony Society summer championships in August — can he do the double?



‘Oodles of character’: Welsh section A stallion Sarum Rembrandt, supreme pony at Horse of the Year Show

Utamaro D’Ecaussines



LUDWIG CRIEL’S stallion by Diamant De Semilly, partnered by Belgium-based British rider Joe Clee, has spearheaded the British showjumping team this year. Thanks to the 11-year-old’s performances at both the European Championships and the Nations Cup final in Barcelona, the Brits have enjoyed considerable success in 2015 — and of course an Olympic qualification.

Loughnatousa WB



THE 16-year-old notched up his second win in the Hickstead Derby this year. He first took the honours in the class in 2012 under Paul Beecher and returned this year to help Trevor Breen claim back-to-back wins. The gelding, owned by Patricia Brown, is the only horse to have won the Hickstead Derby twice with different riders.

Coneygree



THE eight-year-old by Karinga Bay came home first in this year’s Cheltenham Gold Cup as a novice under Nico de Boinville. Trained by Mark Bradstock and bred by his father-in-law the late Lord Oaksey, it was only the gelding’s fourth start over fences.

Many Clouds

TRAINED by Oliver Sherwood, the gelding was victorious in this year’s Grand National, having also triumphed in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury



To the limit: Many Clouds wins the National five months after his Hennessy Gold Cup triumph

five months previously. The eight-year-old by Cloudings, owned by Trevor Hemmings, is known for giving his all in races, sometimes to worrying effect — it is not unusual to see him have a “wobble” after a race.

“It’s something he does post race — it’s not a heart or breathing defect, he just pushes himself to the limit,” Oliver said.

Golden Horn

THE John Gosden-trained colt triumphed in this year’s Derby under Frankie Dettori, before taking the Coral-Eclipse at Sandown, the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown and the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe.

Now retired to stud, his final start was in the Breeders’ Cup Turf at Keeneland in October, where he finished second.

Owned by Anthony Oppenheimer, Golden Horn retired with earnings of more than £4.4million and is the second-highest rated horse in the world behind US Triple Crown hero American Pharoah. **H&H**



Cartier Horse of the Year Golden Horn wins the Derby

People of the year

Raise a glass to the equestrian stars who have beaten the odds, broken records and continued to work their magic in 2015



AP McCoy

IN April at Sandown Park (above) the 20-time champion jockey bid farewell to the weighing room and a career spanning 25 years. He announced his retirement to a shocked television audience live on *Channel 4 Racing* after riding his 200th winner of the 2014/2015 season. The 41-year-old claimed a historic 4,357 career wins including triumphs in both the Grand National and Cheltenham Gold Cup.



Michael Jung

THE German eventing sensation reached new heights in 2015 when he won his first British four-star, taking Burghley on his debut. Although he fell with FischerRocana FST, he made sure of victory on La Biosthetique-Sam FBW, despite

competing with a broken bone in his ankle from his earlier fall.

The following week, Michael claimed his fifth individual gold in six years at the European Championships at Blair — still with his broken ankle. He was also riding the youngest horse there, the eight-year-old FischerTakinou.



William Fox-Pitt

THE season ended with the eventing world holding its breath as William suffered a serious fall at Le Lion d'Angers and spent three weeks in hospital in France.

William's Badminton triumph in the spring was sensational. His second victory here was a long time coming despite his many accolades, and he made history by piloting the first stallion to take top honours, Chris and Lisa Stone's Chilli Morning.



Oliver Townend

OLIVER headed British Eventing's top-100 rider list this year by more than 800 points, a testament to his consistency across the board. This was the second consecutive season he has claimed pole position.

Despite his successes, Oliver will remember 2015 as an "if only" year — he was just a crucial run-out away from an individual silver medal at the European Championships with Fenyas Elegance. But his formidable team of horses will surely pay dividends with championship medals in the future.

Carl Hester

THE master of British dressage has continued to work his magic this year. As well as coaching Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro to double gold at the Europeans,



and continuing to guide so many riders up the dressage ladder, he also piloted the once gangly and uncoordinated Nip Tuck to grand prix victories at Royal Windsor and Hartpury this year, plus European team silver. He has also enjoyed grand prix victories with Wanadoo at Hickstead and Saumur.



Fiona Bigwood

JUST one year on from the heart-stopping fall that very nearly put paid to her riding career,

Fiona Bigwood has bounced back in extraordinary style. Despite suffering from double vision as a result of nerve damage from the fall, and having to ride in an eye patch to counteract it, Fiona piloted Atterupgaards Orthilia to hefty scores at the Aachen Europeans to contribute to team silver, and put herself firmly in the spotlight for Rio 2016.



David Hunter

THIS year David resigned from his role as Team GBR para equestrian dressage performance

manager and chef d'équipe. And what an impact he has had during his 13 years in the job, placing Great Britain firmly, and seemingly unshakably, at the top of world para dressage. He has seen them through team gold medals at three Paralympic Games, four World Championships and five European Championships, culminating in the team's dominance at this year's Europeans in Deauville.



Jordan Cook

THE ride-off between Jordan and Jayne Ross for the supreme horse title at the Royal International (RIHS) was edge-of-your-seat stuff. Unlike so many others around him, Jordan doesn't run a big yard and he depends on others for lifts to shows — plus being deaf never holds him back. Narrowly defeated at Hickstead, Jordan was a popular supreme champion on

his small hack, Fleetwater Xecutive, at the British Show Horse Association championships.



Jayne Ross

PERHAPS an obvious choice, but there is no denying that this 59-year-old has enjoyed a sensational season. She claimed a fourth supreme title at the Royal International, her fifth at Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) and was unbeaten in ladies classes on Hello Dolly. Always smiling and upbeat, Jayne revealed in an *H&H* interview (12 November) that she has no plans to retire soon and has several exciting new show horses in her yard preparing for 2016.



Joe Clee

THE 37-year-old (above) has led the British team's success this year. Riding the stallion Utamaro D'Ecaussines, the Belgium-based rider led the side to an Olympic qualification at the Europeans, finishing 15th and best of the Brits. His clear round in the Nations Cup final in Barcelona secured his team a runner-up spot on the podium.



Scott Brash

THE world number one has had another year to remember, having made history by becoming the first rider to win the Rolex Grand Slam of Showjumping and taking home the €1m (£700,000) bonus.

His grand prix win at Spruce Meadows, Calgary, was the culmination of three big wins across the world — having also triumphed in Geneva and Aachen, and all aboard the heroic Hello Sanctos.



Trevor Breen

THE Irishman claimed his second consecutive win in the prestigious Hickstead Derby, this year riding the 16-year-old gelding Loughnatousa WB. In 2014 he triumphed in the same class aboard the one-eyed wonder horse Adventure De Kannan.

"To win once was a dream come true, but to do it twice was surreal," said the Buckinghamshire-based showjumper following his impressive double victory.

Leighton Aspell



THE 39-year-old jockey celebrated back-to-back wins in the Grand National this year. His first triumph came in 2014 aboard Pineau De Re and

he followed this up 12 months later on Many Clouds. He has formed a solid partnership with the Oliver Sherwood-trained gelding — they also won the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury five months before Aintree.

Leighton made a comeback to racing after an 18-month "retirement" in 2007.

Paul Nicholls

THIS year the Somerset-based trainer (below) won the National Hunt champion trainers' title for the ninth time. Notable successes in 2015 included the Cleeve Hurdle with Saphir Du Rheu, the Queen Mother Champion Chase with Dodging Bullets and the Old Roan Chase with Sound Investment. On Boxing Day in 2014 he trained Silviniaco Conti to win his second successive King George VI Chase, and he'll be aiming at a third this Christmas. **H&H**





8 hot topics from 2015

The year has been packed full of high-class sport, scandal and debate.
Amy Mathieson looks back at what has set the horse world talking in 2015

Welfare and scandal in Middle East endurance

1 ENDURANCE has been under the spotlight this year with headlines awash with scandal — mainly relating to welfare issues and “phantom rides” in the UAE.

This year the FEI commenced the marathon task of deleting 15 fake rides from its database, and adjusting results of real races whose participants were not qualified to start.

The organisation then had to tackle with urgency the national federations in question after three videos of endurance horses with their lower limbs amputated emerged from the Middle East. The images caused outrage and horror in the equestrian community.

It didn't stop there — 21 yellow warning cards were handed out in a single weekend at the start of the UAE endurance season, as the crackdown on rule-breaking stepped up.

However, the FEI president Ingmar De Vos told *H&H* he is “confident” they are “addressing the issues”.

On 1 January 2016 the FEI's global Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Programme (EADCMP) will be rolled out so that FEI head quarters monitors the world, not just Europe.

In March the Emirates Equestrian Federation was suspended in an unprecedented move after an investigation into “major horse welfare issues” and “non-compliance with FEI rules and regulations” in endurance.

It has since been allowed back into the fold — on the provision it adheres to a list of rules.

Fitting in with Agenda 2020

2 IN order for sports to stay in the Olympics they must conform to the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) standards — and equestrianism is no exception.

This year the FEI looked into amendments to the sport, to fall into line with the IOC's 2020 Agenda on creating “attractive, modern, TV- and spectator-friendly sports”, to create a “new generation of fans”.

Some ideas were welcomed, such as a new, modern look for dressage with a less strict rule on jacket colours, plus publicising our equine stars.

However, proposals for a radical overhaul of eventing — including a change in format, three members on a team and a new name of “equestrian triathlon” — have left some riders “concerned and frustrated”.

With proposals set to be further debated at the FEI sport forum in April 2016 and a decision due at next year's general assembly, discussions are expected to rumble on.

A silent torturer

3 OVER-RUGGING, human obesity and fashion — a variety of reasons contributing to the rise in the number of fat horses this year.

Vets and welfare organisations billed equine obesity “the silent torturer”, with the 2015 National Equine Health Survey recording 23% of horses and ponies in the UK as overweight — up from 16.9% in 2014 and 7.8% in 2013.

Meanwhile a recent survey indicated that 89% of owners who took part could not spot all the overweight equines in 12 pictures.

Further education is clearly needed.

Fly-grazing law comes in

4 AS Britain's crisis of abandoned horses continues, 2015 was a landmark year for the fight against fly-grazing.

With an estimated 3,000 dumped horses in England, the Control of Horses Act came into effect on 26 May, ▶



the ONE



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Divisive devices: hat cameras are currently banned by British Eventing, though popular in racing

meaning landowners now have more powers to deal with fly-grazed horses. The law gives private landowners the same powers as local authorities to take quick action to remove and move on fly-grazing horses, only requiring them to keep any horses placed on their land for four working days — as opposed to two weeks.

Charities welcomed the news, expecting the number of fly-grazed horses to be “significantly reduced” within a year.

Equestrian economy up but rider numbers down

5 IS the equestrian world emerging from the recession? Results from the 2014/15 National Equestrian Survey by the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) indicated that spending and shopping are on the rise.

The results show that spending in 2014 was £4.3bn, up from £3.8bn at the time of the previous survey in 2011. This compares to £4.15bn in 2006.

Positive figures suggest that the sector has “remained robust during a time of great economic uncertainty”, said BETA.

Evidence of improvements in spending was welcomed — but conversely the survey shows that

the number of riders is falling.

BETA believes that 4.3% of the British population has ridden in the past year — a possible 2.7m people.

“We estimate there to be 1.3m ‘regular riders’ in 2015, compared to an equivalent figure of 1.6m in 2010,” said a spokesman for BETA.

Cost, access to horses and time factors were cited by riders as the main reasons for giving up.

Hat cams banned in eventing

6 HAT CAMS — riders want them, but British Eventing (BE) says there is not enough known about the devices’ potential danger in a fall.

Despite the organisation bringing in a blanket ban on head cameras in October 2014, triggered by a comment from a French journalist, who said that he believed that the injuries sustained by Formula One driver Michael Schumacher in a skiing accident had been worsened by his head camera, the debate rumbled throughout 2015.

The ban stands until “further research is done into the mounting of cameras, to examine whether or not they exacerbate injury in the event of a fall”.

Riders say the devices are useful for attracting a wider audience as well as sponsors to the sport, giving an inside view into eventing.

In racing however, the tool is delighting fans. JockeyCam, attached to the helmet with a piece of elastic, similar to a pair of goggles, was used at Aintree in April when riders, including Grand National winner Leighton Aspell, wore the 74g devices, providing thrilling footage for viewers.

BE is still looking into the subject.

Olympic qualification

7 THIS year the pressure was on the British showjumping team. As reigning champions all eyes were on them to qualify for Rio after the team had failed to do so at the 2014 World Equestrian Games.

New chef d’équipe Di Lampard had confidence in her squad, and duly so — the Brits finished fourth and secured our place at Rio.

However, the run-up was not without controversy.

World number one Scott Brash dominated headlines this year, making history by winning €1million (£706,000) in the Rolex Grand Slam, with victories at Geneva, Aachen and Spruce Meadows.

However, he withdrew his top horse — Olympic gold medal winner Hello Sanctos — from British team selection as it was not in the horse’s “best interest” to jump at the Europeans in Aachen and shortly afterwards Spruce Meadows.

Top British riders spoke out against the decision, questioning the choice of money over country.

Contamination rule change?

8 OLYMPIC champion Steve Guerdat called for a change in FEI rules following a contamination case in which two of his horses — including London 2012 winner Nino Des Buissonnets — tested positive for banned drugs.

In September, Steve was exonerated by the FEI and the FEI Tribunal, who said he bore “no fault or negligence”. However, the rider missed the European Championships and wants the FEI to reconsider how it handles cases.

“It is our duty to walk together to look forward and change things,” he said. “A modification would be good for the sport so we can avoid damaging the career of an innocent rider again.”

The FEI told *H&H* that there are already discussions ongoing regarding a rule change, started before Steve’s case. **H&H**

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The letters that made us stop, think or smile in 2015



22 January

REMEMBERING RICHARD MEADE

Sir – Working for Richard during the mid-1970s I was always amazed at the number of people who would still ask him what it was like to have lost out on a medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964.

With his characteristic smile, he always replied: "It was great to have led the world at one stage of the game."

I have never met anyone else who was more magnanimous or philosophical in the face of adversity or defeat.

The late Lady Hugh Russell always said that a talented rider on an inadequate horse would still come out on top, but not vice versa.

In 1976, at the Montreal Olympics I witnessed this first hand when Richard was riding Jacob Jones, the equine equivalent of Forrest Gump.

While the UK basked in unrelenting sunshine, Montreal was experiencing one of the wettest years on record. It swiftly became apparent that he really was the Clark Kent of the eventing world, not only managing to go clear, but also avoiding the worst of the desperate going that was the demise of so many that day. Team hopes sadly faded, but Richard went on to finish fourth individually.

To paraphrase Whyte-Melville's famous quote, "I freely admit that the best of my fun, I owe it to Richard Meade."

Bonnie Robinson
Fordingbridge, Hants

12 March

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Sir – I can remember doing British Dressage on grass and none of us thought anything of it. There was the odd exception where a venue had surfaces, but it was for the higher levels. Any schooling I did was either in the field or out hacking, as I had no arena.

I agree with David Broome – riders have

become too precious and cannot deal with balancing a horse on a slope or taking into account the wet or dry conditions.

Clarissa Dawson
Shipston-on-Stour, Warks

19 March

ODE TO THE RACES

Sir – Another Cheltenham came and went I can't believe how much money I've spent – Guinness, coffee, burgers and chips Cashpoint, toilets, endless trips.

Betting on horses and praying they'll win, More slips than ever dropped in the bin.

Your horse is in front, going ever so fast

Just when you're cheering, it drops down to last –

You needed that big win, it's really not funny When you're leaving for home, wallet empty of money.

Today it is Wednesday and it's all right for some,

Who are back at the racecourse reliving the fun.

For others it's boring –

A workday I fear.

Never mind folks,

There's always next year!

Carolyn Phillips
Evesham, Worcs

23 April

POLO TO THE RESCUE

Sir – I read with amused interest the article regarding the alterations to eventing dressage tests and the concern of riders about flying changes at medium and extended canter.

I think that the polo world can come to the rescue of any nervous event riders. We polo players perform flying changes at all paces, including a flat-out gallop. Perhaps a session on a fit thoroughbred polo pony would allay any fears!

Aurora Eastwood
Winchester, Hants



14 May

PROUD AND THANKFUL

Sir – Team Fox-Pitt would like to send a huge thank you to everyone for their kind messages – if only Chilli Morning knew how many followers he has.

We are all still in a daze and it is hard to express how incredibly proud I am of Lisa and Chris Stone's wonderful horse. He certainly rose to the occasion, boosted by a Badminton crowd out in full force, and at its noisy best. The spectators were brilliant and their cheers did the trick.

William Fox-Pitt
Sturminster Newton, Dorset



4 June

BWARE OF THE MASTER

Sir – Tessa Waugh's very amusing article on hunting reprimands reminded me of an incident hunting with the West Kent as a child in the 1970s. On the day in question the sole and long-suffering master was Richard Thorpe. He had just had a heavy and humiliating fall over an innocuous fence in front of the whole field, so was not in the best humour.

The entire field then witnessed the master giving the most enormous earbashing to two riders who had just sheepishly returned from a jolly over some jumps and land that was very much out of bounds. As the furious, red-faced master tried to make his way back through the horses to the front of the hushed field, a young lad, thinking he was using the correct hunting term, shouted so all could hear: "Ware master!"

There was a silence that seemed to last for eternity until the whole field fell about laughing – fortunately the master saw the funny side as well.

After all, hunting is meant to be fun, even for hard-pressed masters.

John Cowper-Coles
West Meon, Hants **H&H**

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Never a dull moment

From horses relaxing in the living of lorries to shopping in Lidl or playing tennis, we round up the knockout stories of the year



Exmoor ponies take centre stage on ITV's *This Morning* before rubbing shoulders with a popstar

From moor to This Morning

EXMOOR ponies may be more accustomed to wild moorland and a bracing Somerset wind, but Monsieur Chapeau and Farleywater Lady Stumpkin Pumpkin had their taste of stardom on ITV's *This Morning* programme in November.

Co-founder of the Moorland Exmoor Foal Project Dawn Westcott brought Monsieur Chapeau onto the show to tell presenters Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield about the pony's rescue — and on the way out of the studios, Monseieur Chapeau met American superstar and former Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger.

"That was just surreal," said Dawn.

Naked riders

HI-VIZ is one option for encouraging traffic to put the brakes on and take a wide berth. Alternatively you could strip off — which is exactly what hundreds of riders did as part of the "Slow down for

my horse campaign" that was launched on Facebook this summer.

"Will you slow down for me now?" was the slogan that accompanied the pictures they posted online of themselves in their underwear.

Supermarket sweep

"OH no, I've done it again, this isn't the vets," said the man leading a pony down the aisles of a Lidl store in Kent in September. The grey pony caught shoppers by surprise, but it only got as far as the bakery department before security swept in to remove it.

How much for horse hair?

THINK of your horse hero — and Valegro is up there. But when a bracelet containing a lock of the dual Olympic gold medal-winner's hair was auctioned for \$12,000 (£7,726) in June, we started to question our devotion...

The bracelet was made from plaited

hair from the dressage star's tail, nine-carat yellow gold engraved with "Valegro", and 64 diamonds. All the funds went to the worthy CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Trust.

Cooling off

AS temperatures soared in August, one piebald pony casually cooled off in a park's public paddling pool — to the horror of passers-by, who spotted the pony's bath time. Little did the piebald know, the picture that was posted and shared on social media caused uproar among local residents in Hull. "That is just staggering," read one tweet.

Something's not right...

WHEN event rider Abbie Brannigan spotted her horse peering out of the living in her lorry at Larkhill in April, she got a shock — but Boskenwyn Lad (Kenny) didn't see what all the fuss was about.

"He did no damage at all to the lorry," said Abbie. "He just pulled everything on the floor looking for his favourite thing — cheesy chips and ketchup!"

Watch out Wimbledon

THE groundsman at the All England Lawn Tennis Club may well be having sleepless nights having watched four-legged players Chester and Rocky give the game a go during Wimbledon fortnight. With instructors Jen Hesketh and Fernanda Zuniga from Wimbledon Village Stables, the horses battled it out on Wimbledon Common — before jumping the net as a grand finale. **H&H**



Anyone for tennis? A misfired serve away from the hallowed turf, two Wimbledon horses try the sport

Main picture courtesy of Kate Hele and Emma Overton

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GORDON WESLEY F.A.B.R.S, BHS (STM)

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Gordon Wesley, aged 87, recently stepped down as Chairman from the **ABRS JEFFRESS SCHOLARSHIP TRUST**. He remains as Trustee (Training).

Since its conception, Gordon has worked tirelessly for the Trust, which provides scholarships for improving coaching/training prowess. His unstinting efforts have enabled over 250 trainers to receive scholarships for training.

The Trustees wish to thank Gordon for his hard work for the last 20 plus years and for his dedication, expertise and constant good humour.

An invaluable member of the Trust Board, he will not be 'put out to pasture' for the foreseeable future!

www.jeffresstrust.co.uk

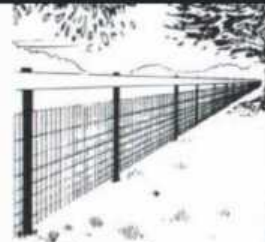
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Leap of faith:
Richard Meade flies
off the Normandy
Bank at Badminton



Farewell to...

H&H pays tribute to some of the big names — human and equine — that the horse world has said a sad goodbye to this year

PEOPLE

Richard Meade, 76

THE triple Olympic gold medallist was a member of the British eventing team for 21 years and at the heart of the eventing community for more than 50. Richard won team gold at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico and team and individual gold in 1972 in Munich.

As well as his Olympic success he also won two gold and three silver World Championship medals and three golds and two bronzes at European Championships. In 1970 he claimed Badminton for the first time with The Poacher. Twelve years later he won it again with Speculator III. He also won Burghley in 1964 with Barberry, and in 1974 he was awarded an OBE.

At his memorial service in March

his eventer son Harry finished with the words: "With his usual calmness, he faced the final uncertainty and prepared to enter the start-box for one last time before setting off, at a strong gallop, into the unknown."

Pat Eddery, 63



THE former Flat jockey had more than 4,600 winners to his name. He won the champion Flat jockey title 11 times and collected an impressive 14 British Classics.

Pat won the famous Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe four times and was also victorious in the King George VI, the Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Ascot Gold Cup.

Pat retired from the saddle in 2003 and began training. In 2005 he was

appointed an OBE — the same year he sent out his first runner as a trainer.

Sir Peter O'Sullivan, 97



THE legendary commentator, dubbed the "Voice of Racing", called more than 14,000 races during his career.

As a journalist Sir Peter was also racing correspondent of the *Daily Express* for 36 years and worked for the Press Association, as well as for BBC radio.

He will be forever associated with the Grand National and commentated on the famous race 50 times for the BBC.

Sir Peter was knighted in 1997 and later that year he set up the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust, which has raised more than £4m for charities in the past 19 years.

Diana Pullein-Thompson, 90



NO horsey childhood was complete without reading the Pullein-Thompsons' books. Diana — the last of the three Pullein-Thompson sisters, who outlived

her twin Christine and younger sister Josephine — wrote more than 30 pony books during her career.

Her first book, *I Wanted a Pony*, is about a girl's struggle to buy a pony and her last, *Fair Girls and Grey Horses*, is a joint-autobiography written with her two sisters, charting their upbringing at The Grove in Peppard, Oxon, where they started a riding school after leaving school when the twins were 14.

Like her sisters, Diana loved horses and hunting and they all whipped-in to the Woodland Hunt, which they founded, and which was later amalgamated into the Garth and South Berks.

Ronnie Massarella, 92



"RONNIE was a true gentleman in every way and was the best ambassador our sport could ever have," Nick Skelton said about the former team manager

and chef d'équipe of the senior British showjumping teams.

He managed the team for 30 years and under his leadership the Brits won silver at the 1980 alternate Olympics at Rotterdam and at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Ronnie was at the helm when the team won gold at the 1979 World Championship and the 1985 European Championships. The Brits also took silver at the 1983 Europeans.

In 1982 Ronnie was appointed OBE for services to British showjumping.

Karen Stives, 64



IN 1984, Ginny Elliot and Karen made history at the Los Angeles Olympics by becoming the first women to win individual Olympic eventing medals.

Karen took silver on her mother Lillian Mahoney's Ben Arthur and Ginny took bronze. Karen rode for the US in numerous internationals on her thoroughbred eventer, The Saint, including the 1982 World Championships in Lumùhlen.

After retiring from competition, Karen became an FEI judge and chairman of the United States Equestrian Team

(USET) Foundation's selectors.

Last year, she gave \$1m (£665,000) to the USET, which was used to set up a competition grants fund for high performance eventing.

Brian Armstrong, 62



"BRIAN has been the lynchpin of point-to-pointing in *H&H* for years," said point-to-point editor Aimi Clark about *H&H*'s long-standing point-to-point correspondent, who had an "encyclopaedic knowledge".

Brian joined as a correspondent in 2007 and covered the Wessex area.

Dawn Wofford, 79



AS a former leading showjumper, Dawn's career highlights included winning the Queen Elizabeth II Cup twice and representing Great Britain at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

She met her American husband, Warren Wofford, at the Stockholm Olympics, where they were both reserve riders. After becoming a mother, Dawn became re-involved with the Pony Club.

She became the organisation's first lady chairman in 1991 and in 1997 she co-ordinated the rewriting of the *Manual of Horsemanship*.

Hugh Condry, 88



THE former *H&H* deputy editor was a journalist for more than 50 years, continuing work until he was 84. He was a key member of staff at *H&H* for 32 years, and

spent 14 years as deputy editor. He was also point-to-point correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*, and latterly for the *Racing Post* and *Racing Post Weekender*.

"Hugh was a key figure in enabling the magazine to serve the growing equestrian world in the post-war years, gaining the world's largest circulation in its field, nearly 100,000 weekly," said former *H&H* editor Michael Clayton.

Lucy Diamond, 43



AFTER completing Bramham and Chatsworth in 2002, Lucy, who died from cancer, completed a clear round across country at Badminton in 2006

with her long-term partner, Carousel VI, before switching her attention to pure dressage.

Lucy took up this discipline seriously in 2013 and qualified to ride at prix st georges in a short space of time, partnering Saphira.

The mother-of-two won the elementary regional championship at Keysoe in the summer of 2014, riding Argentus, just 48 hours after coming out of hospital for treatment.

She went on to a top-10 place at the national championships at Stoneleigh that September, with help from trainer Louise Cassidy.

Caroline Creighton, 56



THE popular trainer and event rider, who had been based with Lucy Wieggersma and helped shape the career of Irish event rider Austin O'Connor, lost

her fight against cancer.

Caroline helped many young riders and juniors on their way to European Championship successes and played a key role in increasing involvement with British Eventing (BE) in the south-west.

Caroline taught all levels of rider and coached for the Pony Club and riding clubs.

Francisco Seabra, 30



PORTUGUESE eventer Francisco Seabra died while competing at the Alegria Rancho Eventing Tour de Utrera in Seville, Spain, in February. He was riding 12-year-old

Aferzysta in the CIC2* when they fell at a water obstacle.

Francisco made his senior championship debut at WEG in 2014 in Caen riding Zarthago.

Lord Waterford, 81



POLO stalwart John Hubert de la Poer Beresford, the eighth Marquess of Waterford, was a member of the Duke of Edinburgh's Windsor Park team,

which won the Gold Cup at Cowdray Park on two occasions — in 1966 and 1969.

He was also captain of the All Ireland Polo Club from 1960 to 1985 and its highest handicapped player.

His lifelong love of polo has been passed on to his grandson Richard Le Poer, who is a six-goal professional.

HORSES

Kauto Star, 15



THE National Hunt hero, who was put down after a field accident, won the Cheltenham Gold Cup twice (2007 and 2009) and the King George at Kempton five times — in doing so in 2011 he broke the course record set by legendary grey Desert Orchid.

After retiring in October 2012, the Paul Nicholls-trained gelding was moved to event rider Laura Collett's yard.

Brown Panther, 7



MICHAEL OWEN'S stable star was attempting to retain his title in the Irish St Leger at The Curragh when he broke his leg and was put down. The former

England footballer said it was "the saddest day" of his life.

The son of Shirocco won 11 of 28 starts during his career. Highlights included a win in the King George V Stakes at Royal Ascot in 2011, the Goodwood Cup in 2013 and the Dubai Gold Cup in March this year.

Tamarillo, 23

DESCRIBED by William Fox-Pitt as his "horse of a lifetime", the gelding (main image) won Badminton in 2004, an Olympic team silver medal in Athens the same year, individual silver and team gold at the Europeans in 2005, team silver at the World Equestrian Games (WEG) in 2006 and Burghley in 2008.

By Tarnik and out of Mellita, Tamarillo was bred by the Guinness family in 1992 at the Biddesden Stud.

William took over the reins from Diana Burgess, who rode him initially, in 1999.

Tamarillo was retired from eventing at the end of 2009 and in 2013 his clone Tomatillo was born in New Mexico.

Ensign, 20



BY Mandalus, Ensign ran in bumpers, over hurdles and then fences for Ben Case before he started his eventing career in 2002 with Pippa Funnell. In 2005 he was called into the British squad for the 2005 European Championships at



'Horse of a lifetime': William Fox-Pitt's Olympic silver medal-winning partner Tamarillo

Blenheim after Pippa's intended ride Primmore's Pride was injured. He went on to finish third at Pau CCI4* in 2007.

In 2014 Retraining of Racehorses RoR launched a championship in honour of the talented horse, The Ensign Eventing Challenge.

Cosmopolitan II, 28



WILLIAM FOX-PITT'S first Olympic horse, owned by Frank and Ann Andrews, competed with William at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, at which the British

team finished fifth.

Bred in Ireland, Cosmopolitan II was by the Irish thoroughbred Penistone and out of an Irish hunter mare, Tullyrea Lass.

The bay gelding was also part of the gold-medal winning British team at the 1995 European Championships at Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy, and the combination again won European team gold as well as individual silver at the 1997 championships at Burghley.

De Novo News, 12



TINA COOK'S top horse — who died due to an infection that developed after he fell sick while travelling — helped Britain to team silver at the World Equestrian Games (WEG) in 2014.

Tina bred De Novo News (by Last News) and she rode his dam Douce De

Longvaut round Burghley when the mare was in-foal with him. He was part-owned by Jim Chromiak.

The pair were named third reserves for the British squad for the European Championships at Blair in September before the horse fell ill.

FBW Chico, 19



ALEX HUA TIAN rode FBW Chico at the 2008 Olympics in Hong Kong, when, aged 18, Alex became the first Chinese rider to contest the eventing at an Olympics.

Zhao Ning's grey by Carolus I started his career in Germany and Alex bought him in December 2007, just before the registration deadline for the Beijing (Hong Kong) Olympics.

Give Me Remus, 23



THE stallion, by Grannus and out of Edisa, won more than £55,000 during his showjumping career.

Rem's career highlights included helping the British team secure second place in the Rotterdam Nations Cup under Michael Whitaker in 2001. That year he was also placed second in the Hickstead Derby with Billy Twomey. Future Olympic gold medallist Ben Maher began riding Rem in 2005 and the pair forged a successful partnership, winning and racking up placings at several international events.

Abbervail Dream, 28



BY Chairlift and out of Killea Beauty, "Mac" had a long and successful career with British team rider and now showjumping's chef d'equipe Di Lampard.

He won the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Hickstead aged seven before going on to compete in his first World Cup at Olympia in London that same year.

Di and Mac made their team debut at the CSIO Rotterdam when they finished eighth. This was followed by more than 40 appearances representing Team GBR.

The pair went to two Europeans (Hickstead and Arnhem) and two WEGs (Rome and Jerez).

Castle Comet, 21



VANESSA CLARK'S Connemara stallion was twice native supreme at the Royal Show, champion at Dublin and is still the only pony to have stood supreme at

Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) and at Olympia. Three-time supreme at the Connemara Breed show and twice NFU overall supreme at the National Pony Society (NPS) championships, he also qualified for the HOYS Cuddy in-hand final four times.

Comet's progeny include 2013 HOYS winner Chilham Aquarius, 2014 Royal International victor Chilham Pursuit and 2014 Cuddy finalist Castle Emperor.

Jumbo, 31



THE extraordinarily successful stallion was graded elite with Sport Horse Breeding (GB) and evented up to advanced, as well as competing in dressage and

showjumping, before becoming a top sire.

He has since sired many leading event horses including Headley Britannia and Avebury. He is responsible for 45 advanced horses and now has around 50 offspring affiliated with British Eventing.

Glengarrick, 29



THE diminutive black gelding, who stood at just 15.3hh, was the best of the New Zealand event horses at the 2004 Olympics and the 2006 WEG with rider Heelan Tompkins — despite the fact that at the latter he was 20 years old.

Orient Express, 16



CLARKE JOHNSTONE and the popular Kiwi thoroughbred "Blue" competed at WEG in Kentucky in 2010 as part of the New Zealand team that won the

bronze medal.

They also lifted the 2011 eventing World Cup with wins at both the New Zealand and Australian rounds of the series.

The horse was retired in 2013 but made a comeback after two-and-a-half years out of the game. He died after sustaining an injury during the cross-country in the CCI3* class at New Zealand's National Three-Day-Event at Taupo in May.

Torinto Van De Middelstede, 19



GUY WILLIAMS' former top showjumper had victories everywhere from the Nations Cup in Abu Dhabi in 2010 to Horse of the Year Show (HOYS), Antwerp

and Olympia.

Guy credits Torinto as the horse who really helped to kick-start his international career.

Birthday Night, 20



"BARNEY" completed six four-stars with three different riders — William Fox-Pitt, Harry Meade and Georgie Spence.

His owner-breeder

Jane Walter said: "Barney never had a bad day and everyone who had him adored him.

"He was a real character and a wonderful cross-country horse, although he didn't like dressage much."

Private Colin, 21



THE bay gelding, sired by Busk Hill Gunnar, was bred by showjumpers Tina and Graham Fletcher and produced up to top level eventing by Australian

rider Sam Griffiths.

Sam partnered the horse to finish third at Le Lion's seven-year-old World Championships (2002), sixth at Blenheim (2003) and sixth at Badminton in 2004. He was also long-listed for the Athens Olympics that year.

Hello Oscar, 29



STANDING at 17.1hh, the top showjumping stallion was owned throughout his life by Margaret Lock, who bred him in 1986.

The stallion's successes included third in the 1998 Hickstead Derby with Geoff Glazzard. He also had grands prix wins at the Royal Welsh and the Royal Lancashire, was third in the grand prix at Windsor and eighth in the San Marino grand prix. He had winnings in excess of £100,000.

Giltedge, 29



PARTNERED by American event rider David O'Connor, Giltedge appeared on five international senior teams in the eight years he represented the

United States, and won Rolex Kentucky CCI4* in 2001.

The bay gelding, owned by Jacqueline Mars, was on the silver medal-winning team at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and helped the US to team bronze at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

The pair were also on the US team that won gold at the 2002 WEG in Jerez, Spain.

Warum Nicht, 19



AS well as their 2007 World Cup win, dressage star Isabell Werth and Warum Nicht took the four-star tour at the CDIO at Aachen in 2010 and were on the German

bronze medal-winning team at WEG in Kentucky in 2010.

Warum Nicht, by Weltmeyer, was known as Hannes, after his former rider Hannes Baumgart.

Dolendo, 21



CARL HESTER'S popular grand prix ride Dolendo was initially ridden by Carl's pupil and former partner Spencer Wilton, who took the

national championship title with him in September 2007.

The upstanding 17.2hh chestnut gelding (Donnerhall x Pik Ramiro) was shortlisted for the 2008 Olympics in Hong Kong with Carl, but was ruled out following a small but untimely injury. **H&H**



Thrills & spills

The edge-of-your seat, hair-raising moments
that had us biting our nails in 2015



Those pristine breeches aren't staying like that: David McPherson bids adieu to Gloria Van Zuuthoeve at the Hickstead Derby Meeting



Neat, but not right: hometime for Midnight Wispa and Caroline Harris



An infrequent sight: an unscheduled dismount for Michael Jung as he and FischerRocana FST take too close a look at Burghley's lake

Pictures by Matthew Webb/Racingfotos.com, Peter Nixon, Stephen Sparkes and Helen Revington, Lucy Merrell and www.hamishmitchellphotography.co.uk



Gravity is about to get the better of Lewis Ferguson after he parts company with Merrion Square and somersaults over the last at Wincanton



Back to front: a surprising moment for Jess Hawkins and Franklyn's Ranger in the Pony Club Championships open showjumping



Not as planned: Andrew Hoy and Rutherglen provide not quite the drama they would have hoped for the crowd at Badminton



Barry Gerahty adopts an unorthodox position aboard Uxizandre at Newbury



Why does there have to be a photographer around when that happens? A member of the South Durham field attempts to hang on to the reins – and their dignity



Call this a jump? Tim Lips and Concrex Bayro take a sideways approach to a skinny at Aachen, Germany, in August



Ben Maher velcros himself to Diva II as she gets a bit overambitious



Michael Jung suffers a wardrobe malfunction



Poised for landing, if on the wrong set of feet: Ellen Whitaker and Le Beau at Hickstead



Taunton Vale amateur whip Sam Matthews earns top tumble of the season with this spectacular and gymnastic effort



'Yippee, we won!' – Maikel van der Vleuten's VDL Groep Verdi TN NOP enjoys the moment as the Dutch showjumping team celebrate gold



'I reckon we should try an alternative approach here, Mum' – Katey Cuthbertson's Imbrogio considers the options at Barbury CIC2*



Making a splash: Gina Ruck and Rehy Too suffer a dunking at Burghley...



Unex Billy Dream puts the brakes on, leaving Pieter Clemens hanging



... and Rehy Too heads off to drip dry, leaving his rider to contemplate what might have been



'I have ridden some real operators over the best country in England': huntsman Peter Collins appreciates the quality of his horse power

High Leicestershire

**Quorn,
Burton on the Wolds**

9 November

By Carina Evans

AS someone who goes hunting unashamedly to experience the thrill of galloping and jumping across open country following hounds, this date burned a hole in my diary. The Quorn, founded in 1696, has to be one of the oldest hunts in the UK and is part of the Melton Hunt Club. This club is made up of packs enabling visitors access to Leicestershire's famous old turf with pastures divided by cut and laid hedges, patched with timber and guarded by ditches, ideal for galloping and jumping horses at speed.

Huntsman Peter Collins is one of nature's true gentlemen. His first love was actually motorbikes and he still rides them in the quieter summer months. I'd hunted with Peter a good deal 20 or so years ago

when I was a girl while he was the huntsman of the Seavington and then the Portman.

Peter and the legendary horse dealer Dick Brake showed some tremendous sport, especially over the hedges at Ash in Somerset and in the Portman vale. I later had some fun days with the Hampshire Hunt while his brother Bob Collins was huntsman.

Peter has followed in some formidable footsteps, notably one of the most distinguished professional huntsmen Michael Farrin, who died in 2008. Despite this he has forged his own path and is hugely liked and respected in this happy part of Leicestershire.

Describing his pack's preferred Modern English hound (mixed recently with

some blood from the Grove and Rufford and the College Valley), Peter likened his "type" to that of a good thoroughbred hunter.

"You want a good deep shoulder showing athletic agility and speed; this is fast country and you need one that will gallop and jump," he said.

He went on to explain how instrumental joint-master Joss Hanbury is in their breeding programme and the buying of Quorn hunt horses.

"I am so well mounted, I have ridden some real operators over the best country in England and it's down to Mr Hanbury," he said.

"I wanted to be the Quorn huntsman since I was very, very young. I feel I am riding as well as ever and I appreciate and enjoy the thrill of crossing the country on very good horses."

Peter was keen to attribute the cohesiveness of his team to his wife and stud groom Lorna.

"She is absolutely second to none," he said. "Her stable



New Monday field master Phil Humphreys, on gate-shutting duty this time



Edited by
Polly Portwin

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QUORN



management and attention to detail is exemplary and, unlike lots of people nowadays, she really knows how to feed and maintain fit hunt horses".

Elliot Stokes is the first whipper-in. He came from Nigel Peel MFH at the North Cotswold, through the Hunt Staff Bursary Scheme.

"He's sharp across the country and good with the hounds," continued Peter. "Mr Peel asked me to take him under my wing and so I have."

The team is completed by Peter and Lorna's six-year-old son, Joseph, who has just been given his first hunting pony.

People and places

ROAD signs reminded me of reading *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man* by Siegfried Sassoon. My map was marked with well-known names like "Little Dalby", "Kirby Bellars" and "John O Gaunt's".

Leicestershire is crisscrossed with old and disused railways. I imagined them once ferrying hunting people, service men and their mounts to and from meets all over the county.

Together with Joss Hanbury and his wife Nicky we set off for the meet that was a jolly affair at the Egglestons' Horse Leys Farm.

"The Egglestons are incredibly supportive of the hunt and they've walked countless hound puppies over the years," Joss Hanbury said.

"They always make sure I have my whiskey and milk as well," chimes Peter Collins.

Because it was a Monday meet, there were few children out. However I did spot Tabitha Kyle – daughter of field master and Irish Olympian Mark and his wife Tanya. Tabitha was riding her super pony Tezzy, and what



The make-up of the Quorn: a friendly pack of farmers and hard-riding enthusiasts

an impressive combination they were.

Stockpiling sausage rolls

THE Quorn is a friendly pack of farmers and hard-riding hunting enthusiasts. Joint-master James Mossman introduced me to many at the meet, including his wife Zoe and their son Angus. I had a brief chinwag with the well-known sculptress Juliet Cursham.

Before we moved off James said a few words and during this speech I spotted Tabitha Kyle sensibly stuffing her pockets full of sausage rolls.

James is one of four joint-masters, along with Jo Jewell and Liz Murfitt, who joined him and Joss Hanbury this season. Others who help out in the field mastering department alongside Mark Kyle are Vere Philipps and Phil Humphreys. The latter has since suffered a terrible head-on car crash and I'd like to wish him the very best and a speedy recovery from the pages of the *Horse & Hound*.

'Hounds please'

WITH conviction James announced "Hounds please" and off we set, heading east away from the meet towards Six Hills and then veering north in the direction of Wymeswold. I met The Hon Amanda Eastwood, who was out for the first time since having her first child a few months prior.

We chatted about the merits of riding a safe horse after babies and then we enjoyed watching as a select and brave few took on the first couple of hedges following hounds as they drew from covert to covert. It didn't take hounds long to find their trail, which in fact had been laid in a loop, taking us back almost to where we started.

The pace quickened and we left the Melton Road after about three miles, over a sheep fence and a number of sturdily built post and rail fences, along the side of some arable, through some paddocks until we starting heading north

IN KENNELS

Joint-masters: Joss

Hanbury (1997),

James Mossman (2006),

Jo Jewell (2015),

Liz Murfitt (2015)

Huntsman: Peter Collins

First whipper-in:

Elliot Stokes

Stud groom: Lorna Collins

Countrymen: Neil

Brockbank and Fran

Fence builder: Phil Kirk

Trail layer: Bruce

Langley-McKim

Amateur whip:

David Bland

Hon sec: Peter Morritt,

01664 813661

Country: bordered in the north by the South Notts, to the south the Fernie, to the west the Atherstone and Meynell & South Staffs and to the east the Cottesmore.

Hunting days: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays



Alan Schroeder, chairman of the Quorn Hunt, shares a joke

again. I took great pleasure in watching as one member of the field after another flew across the country and out on to the Melton Road over a wrought iron gate, including the familiar Quorn monocle-wearing Cliff Van Hyme riding his striking coloured cob.



Joint-masters James Mossman (in front) and Joss Hanbury lead the field as horses and riders catch their breath during 'a cracker of a day'



Huntsman Peter Collins with the Quorn's Modern English hounds

Walton Thorns

DURING a lull I managed to catch up with Emma and Andy Brown, who were both beautifully mounted.

Emma is often seen hunting side-saddle.

"I left my habit at home today – I didn't fancy taking on the Thorns aside," she laughed, referring to the upcoming line of hedges over Shuttlewoods Farm, which is owned by Katrina Cass (née Portsmouth) and farmed by Liz and her son James Knight.

I remembered the Thorns from last season when visiting with friends from the Bicester with Whaddon Chase, jumping three in a row alongside James Mossman MFH, giving him what he later termed a "Bicester Sandwich", poor chap.

On we went another half mile or so towards Walton Thorns. Standing on top of the hill above the covert I chatted to longtime subscribers Maggie Woodhouse and joint-master Liz Murfitt along with new Monday field master Phil Humphreys, whose first day at the helm had been fogged off the previous week.

Phil is a joustier, a farrier, a farmer and sings in a band; he is tremendously well liked and

respected. Although Phil was gate shutting I'd noticed him going hell for leather flying a couple of hedges shortly after leaving the meet.

After another few post and rails we came to the infamous line of hedges referred to earlier. Sadly after only an hour, my day ended with a broken collarbone in a ditch behind because my hired horse forgot to put out any landing gear. Despite this, however, I managed to stay out long enough to see hounds screaming after their well-laid trail westwards towards Walton on the Wolds before I was picked up by Katrina Cass and her daughter Rosie, who deposited me in Loughborough hospital.

Cracker of a day

I was able to catch up at a later date with Peter Collins and he confirmed that typically hounds didn't really stop running for the remainder of the day. Following their trail, they hunted very well all afternoon in and out of coverts taking in plenty of fences, mostly around Ed Packe-Drury-Lowe's beautiful Prestwold Hall and finishing up around 4pm as the light began to fade.

"We had a cracker of a day," James Mossman MFH later enthused, and I was delighted for them.

I would urge anyone to book in their day early as the Quorn are not to be missed. They are a welcoming and friendly, popular pack with some of the greatest jumping country in Great Britain, a secure infrastructure and, in Peter Collins, a master of his trade at the helm. **H&H**



Above: Tabitha Kyle is flanked by her parents Tanya and Irish international event rider Mark, who helps out with field mastering, and joint-master Liz Murfitt (far left). Left: joint-master Joss Hanbury, who is key in hound breeding and selecting the Quorn's hunt horses. Below: Jo Jewell, who started as joint-master this season, looks elegant over one of Leicestershire's famous hedges



James Mossman, who joined the mastership in 2006

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Lapford, Devon**
7 November
Rory Knight Bruce

THERE is something about the Eggesford hunting country in central west Devon where people can come and lose themselves in its timeless valleys and villages. Henry Williamson wrote *Tarka the Otter* here, Ted Hughes the farm poems *Moortown Diary*, and it was at the Duke of York pub at Iddesleigh that Michael Morpurgo gained the conversations that were the seeds for his inspirational book *War Horse*.

Edgerley House near Lapford – home to Eggesford joint-master Graeme Holmes and his wife Philippa, who hosted the hunt's generous opening meet for 50 riders and as many on foot – has its own intriguing secret. In the late 1960s, the armed robber John McVicar – on the run from Durham prison – holed up here

with an accomplice who owned the house and hunted with the Eggesford. There is still talk that some of the swag may be buried in the parish and I actually spoke to the man who now owns the highly tuned Mini Cooper S getaway car.

"It was my wife who got me into it," says Graeme Holmes of his hunting and 15-year involvement with the Eggesford. "Philippa was hunting regularly and it was a

case of 'if you can't beat them, join them'.

"It has been a wonderful way of meeting people and putting down roots in this community," he continued.

Graeme has five horses, all ex-racehorses, including Graeme's field mastering horse Grit, from former England striker turned successful trainer Mick Channon. Three others come from the yard of former Grand National jockey

Ben de Haan, and all are looked after by eventer Maria Wright.

On foot at the opening meet was long-time Eggesford supporter Helen Edmonds, complete with elegant Davy Crockett fur hat, former master Colin Ash, and East Devon MP and government minister Hugo Swire, who has a home in the Eggesford country with his wife Sasha.

Newcomer Holly Pickford was first at the meet having hacked on her smart grey pony, while the brilliant signs for unboxing and parking and a large grass field for the horses and hounds made for a well-organised meet.

One definite pot of gold at the Eggesford is the immaculately kept hunt kennels that I visited the day before hunting.

Huntsman Gary Boon, whose father Tony was the regarded huntsman of the nearby Lamerton, has been here variously as kennel huntsman, joint-master and huntsman since 2000.



A family feel: whipper-in Ben Lowe, Graham Herbert MFH, huntsman Gary Boon, meet host Graeme Holmes MFH and Sally Rowe MFH with hounds



Timeless valleys and villages: the Eggesford's Devon country has proved inspirational to many

Tough Old English

THE hounds are predominantly Old English with some of the Cottesmore "ST" line brought in from the North Shropshire and the Ludlow, the latter at which Gary was kennel huntsman for two seasons before returning to his native West Country.

"The Old English serve this country and they are harder and more determined," said Gary.

For the opening meet, Gary



Sophie Dunn flies a fence in style

Boon took a mixed pack of 18½ couple.

The kennels, which have their own stables, grass yards and fields, operate a full fallen stock service for their many farmers, as this is still a big dairy and sheep country.

"Scent here is variable," continued Gary. "The best scenting is east of the A377 around Chulmleigh and Romansleigh after Christmas, in what we call 'staghound country,'" he said. "Having said that, last spring we had our best six weeks of scent since I have been here."

The kennels, like the mastership and the hunt itself, have a real family feel about them. Gary's partner Jo (whose father Graham Herbert is a joint-master) helps with the horses. Gary's mother, Linda, helps out with her two small grandchildren. The third joint-master is Sally Rowe, brought up hunting with the Meynell and the Crawley and Horsham, and whose daughter Demelza was out with her nine-year-old daughter Hattie. Demelza's husband, Nick Barnes, is a hunt trail layer and an all-round help.

LIVING THE DREAM

Octogenarian author Patrick Ellis

NEAR the Fox and Hounds at Eggesford, where the hunt hold their opening meet dinner, meets and other functions, lives Patrick Ellis, 85, who has just published his engaging memoirs: *Living the Dream: Tales of a Hunting Man*.

Educated at Stowe (where he first read *H&H* and bought it every week ever since), Patrick hunted the North Kildare Harriers, Sparkford Vale and several packs in America. He recalls hunting with the film director John Huston – "he was a lad" – Roderic More O'Ferrall – "a brilliant horseman" – and Irish showjumping legend Diana Connolly Carew. Copies of Patrick Ellis' book are available for £15 (incl p&p), cheques made payable to *Hounds Magazine*, Rose Cottage, Hughley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 6NX. Call 01746 785637 for information.



Catherine Clapperton leaps a ditch aboard her smart and scope coloured

They had encouraged their Devon and Somerset stag hunting friends Peter and Caroline Nancekivell to come and visit for the day.

"We're not used to a meet, as we just get the hounds out and go," Peter told me. "Very spoiling."

Once hunting four days, the Eggesford now meet twice a week, mainly over pasture and woodland where there is little jumping. This does not mean that you don't have to be an alert and good rider with the Eggesford. There are plenty of

steep fields and trappy places in lanes and woodland to keep the follower on the ball.

Both Gary's handling of the hounds and Graeme's field mastering are brisk and, from the meet, we were on the go for the next five hours. Small villages such as Coldridge and Nymet Rowland, with their church towers high up on hills, offer good bearing points for the visitor.

This country is well served by bridle paths and lanes.

"It is relatively dry today but it rides deep in winter and we ▶



On the ball: the field tackle one of the west Devon country's challenging hills

IN KENNELS

President: Courtney Heard

Chairman: Hugh Terrise

Joint-masters: Graeme Holmes, Sally Rowe and Graham Herbert

Huntsman (2002): Gary Boon

Whipper-in: Ben Lowe

Grooms: Jo Herbert and Samantha Nicholls

Trail Layer: Nick Barnes, Alan Pike

Honsec: Claire Woodward: clairewoody@googlemail.com

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Members of the field wind their way through some dense Devon woodland

are always mindful of crops," joint-master Graham Herbert told me.

Travelling west

LIKE his other joint-masters, Graham is not a native of these parts – he was brought up in Middlesex, and Graeme Holmes' family hunted with the Essex Union. All have grasped the slightly laid-back way of Devon hunting, but also brought to it thorough organisation and respect for the many small farms that we crossed during the day.

Well known to the West Country point-to-point world are Caroline and Angela Prouse, both immaculately turned out and avid foxhunters, whose parents, Henry and Sarah Prouse, have been lifelong Eggesford supporters on foot. When their father died, they gave a cup in 2015 for the point-to-point in his memory.

"It was a very special day as Mum went up to present the cup to herself as we had won the race," Angela recalled.

North Tawton vet Haydon Webb was well mounted on his grey, which he takes on "away

days" to enjoy the hedges of the Taunton Vale, where his brother is joint-master.

"We are lucky to have such a good huntsman and hunting on our doorstep," he said.

I too was fortunate to be riding a good grey, Magnum, just over from Ireland, and brought by Philip Matthews, husband of Dulverton West joint-master Liz Matthews.

John Quick, who farms here, has been chairman of the supporters' club for more than 20 years.

"All our functions are well supported and the point-to-point often gets more than 200 entries," he said.

The hunt ball attracts more than 500 revellers and this year's theme will be "The Only Way is Eggesford".

A popular figure here is riding instructor Debbie Newton, who does a lot of work with Riding for the Disabled Association and the Paralympics, and had just come back from an event in Leicester.

"I keep only nine horses now and I love working with the kids," she told me. "I have to work hard to find time to hunt but on a day like today it's all worth it."

Hounds drew on from Coldridge to Nymet Rowland, over the land of hunting stalwart Rob Skinner – whose nephew Toby, a farmer, was also out – and we came to woodland below Hawkridge.

Here the hounds were quickly away, and their cry and perseverance was there for all to hear and see. We were then able to enjoy a 20-minute trail hunt before concluding the day at 4pm.



Above: 'hard and determined' – huntsman Gary Boon praises the toughness of his Old English hounds and their suitability for tackling the country. Left: John Quick, who has been chairman of the supporters' club for more than 20 years, with Lauren Woodman. Below: Hattie Barnes, granddaughter of joint-master Sally Rowe MFH, and Ellie White look at home on the hunting field at an early age



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is a lot more work than I thought becoming a master. But when it all comes together – as it has done today – it makes it all worthwhile. We also have a fantastic team of volunteers at the Eggesford."

Graeme Holmes,
joint-master

Fit for the trenches

AS we hacked back to the meet, we rode through lanes and country with which anyone who has seen the film *War Horse* will be familiar.

Once, over a pint in the Duke of York with Michael Morpurgo, I talked to him about the film's hero, the Devon horse Joey.

"You know that horse would have had to be taken hunting to

jump wire the way he did in the trenches," I said to Michael.

Rightly cautious of being drawn into the hunting debate, Michael paused and smiled before he answered, "You know, you are right."

How appropriate then, that my visit to the Eggesford should have begun with two minutes' silence to remember the brave, both human and equine. **H&H**

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Millie's tactics pay off

Dianas of the Chase Cup, Ingarsby, Leicestershire

29 November

By George Bowyer

CONDITIONS were wild and blustery for the third running of the Dianas of the Chase Cup, but the threatened rain held off to allow 14 runners and around 100 onlookers to enjoy this unique side-saddle spectacle in relative comfort.

Joss Hanbury and his team from the Quorn had prepared a challenging two-mile course of 14 fences, which included natural hedges, rails and hunt jumps. Fence five, ominously christened "Hero's hedge", stood at an imposing 5ft2in at the downhill – fastest – end.

The field included many well-known names from the world of side-saddle hunting, among them Sian Lowes of the Flying Foxes side-saddle display team; Pippa Booth, from the

Blackmoor and Sparkford Vale country who stood in for Lady Mary in the hunting scenes in *Downton Abbey*; Susan Oakes, runner-up in this race two years ago and current holder of the world side-saddle high-jump record – at 6ft8in; and sisters Aoife and Sarah Byrne.

But it was Millie Stewart-Wood who took the honours

– and the first prize of a Patey hat. Lying in around third place throughout on her horse, Charlie, she pushed on to take the win in the closing stages.

"I knew that Charlie isn't the fastest, so I thought I'd let the real frontrunners go and I'd just tuck in behind," said Millie. "The two horses in front of me got mixed up at fence 11, which left

the door open for Charlie and me. He jumped fantastically – we flew."

Aoife Byrne had an unlucky fall at the first, leaving Laura Elliott on Shanbo Shadow to lead the field early on. A handful of combinations jockeyed for the best position to tackle fence five as the field headed away towards the far end of the course.

By the time they came back into sight at fence 10, Amanda Soar (Be Keen) and Susan Oakes (Ben) were well out in front. Unfortunately the tight approach to fence 11 – one of the narrowest on the course – proved their undoing, with neither of them making the turn and Susan parting company with Ben, who is owned by veterinary nurse, Rosie Wignall.

"Fortunately the horse and I were both fine, so when I eventually found my stirrup – which had landed in the next field – I remounted and we



Host Brian Henton presents the trophy to the winner, Millie Stewart-Wood



Timeless elegance: the side-saddle competitors soar over the Quorn team's two-mile course of hunt fences



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A classy field assembles for the race, organised by Philippa Holland (grey hat)

carried on," said Susan.

Only a length behind the winners at the finish was the Readyfield Bloodhounds' Polly Mallender on Sir Pancake. They, in turn, were five lengths clear of Pippa Booth and Charlie.

Twelve riders in all completed the course and every starter returned home safely.

The organising team, headed by Philippa Holland and ably

assisted by Becca Holland, expressed its thanks to the many sponsors, which included TopSpec, Red Mills and Andrews Bowen Ltd. The day's takings went to the Hunt Staff Benefit Society. **H&H**

RESULTS

1, M Stewart-Wood; 2, P Mallender; 3, Pippa Booth; 4, Beth Jacob; 5, Laura Elliott; 6, Sarah Kate Byrne. **The Old Hunting Habit & Co best turned-out rider.**—Sarah Byrne. **Best turned-out spectator.**—Izabela Pitcher.



Balibu seals last-gasp win



William Whitaker keeps everyone on their toes as he and Balibu jump a brave double clear to clinch the hotly contested grand prix from final draw

Pictures by Graham Gannon Photography

**Keysoe CSI2*,
Beds**

27-29 November

By Penny Richardson

"YOU'LL have to go for it," said Michael Whitaker to his nephew William just before he went into the ring as last to go in the 12-horse jump-off for the world ranking grand prix.

Michael never said a truer word, as William and the 10-year-old Balibu had to chase what looked an impossible target set by an inspired William Funnell on Billy Angelo.

Paul Connor's first-round track demanded care from horse and rider, and in the jump-off he tested nerve and bravery with inviting inside options and a long gallop to a huge final oxer. William (Whitaker) set off carefully, but once the first few fences were out of the way, he upped the pace and Balibu answered heroically. William even had time to take a pull to make sure of the last before galloping through the finish.

Balibu can best be described as a "family pony" – the Oldenburger by Baloubet Du Rouet has also been ridden by Michael and relative Joe Clayton, who won a similar grand prix with him in Oslo last year.

"He's been jumping well recently and I had the feeling that it was just a matter of time until we had a big win," said William. "I was lucky with the draw because I knew what I had to do and I'm just hoping we keep our form for Olympia."

This was a show full of last-gasp winning performances. Ireland's Billy Twomey and Tin Tin looked sure to top the 22-horse jump-off for Friday's major class. But in came final pair Jay Halim and Bart VI. There's nothing this former event rider and Helen Rees' fiery gelding like better than a gallop and, despite a difference of opinion at a floral arrangement, they won by a good margin.

"I wanted to go round and Bart thought we should cut inside," explained Jay. "We ended up doing a wiggle and I was amazed when they said I'd won."

ONE TO WATCH**Cleopatra VIII**

TEAM Harmony's nine-year-old has caught the eye since Louise Whitaker first rode her in newcomers classes in July. The Kannan daughter, who was bred in Britain by her owner, Princess Haya of Jordan, was again impressive here.

The chestnut mare, whom François Mathy Jnr started in Belgium, has a huge jump, but was a late starter after suffering a freak accident on a horse walker in which her tongue was severed.

"She's done much less than other horses of her age, so she's had to catch up," said Louise. "She's really careful and has all her double clears for next year. She's improving all the time and she's ready to step up now. She's definitely one for the future."

Billy went one place better in Saturday's 1.45m two-phase on Ardcolum Duke. The tighter Billy turned, the harder this athletic little stallion tried and their round proved too good for their rivals.

"He's always competitive and he loves it here," said Billy, who was having his first outing since suffering a hand injury at Helsinki's World Cup show in October.

Jay was back on top in Saturday's 1.25m two-phase, this time with the young stallion Derby. Jay thinks a lot of the seven-year-old Dutch-bred son of Verdi and this was the first time he had asked him serious questions against the clock.

"He didn't have a clue what I wanted him to do, but he just said: 'OK Dad, I'll clear the fences and you do the rest'," said Jay.

Witch conjurs up a double

EMILY WARD calls Witch her "horse of a lifetime" and this extraordinary little mare proved her 16-year-old rider right with an awesome winning performance in Saturday's 1.35m speed class. They then looked equally good when heading the final day's two-phase.

"She's unbelievable. She's ▶

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'She tries so hard': Witch gives Emily Ward, 16, a pair of convincing victories

taken me from the age of 11 to international wins and the best thing about her is that she tries so hard," said Emily.

When former speedway rider Geoff Luckett gets into "go-forward" mode, his rivals know they're in trouble. Geoff, who sped to victory in Friday's 1.30m class on Cash Point, is making the most of his opportunities before the nine-year-old Holsteiner returns to owner Sharon Baldwin's Meadow Stud for stallion duties.

"I'm pleased for the horse. We've just got back from Spain, where he was second five times in eight classes. He deserved a win," said Geoff.

The final oxer in the jump-off of Friday's 1.20m class proved difficult, but there were no problems for winner Julie Andrews, who scarcely took a pull aboard Eva Bjorkman's Miss Lyckad.

"She's a great mare. She loves going fast and I do too. A nice gallop does us both good," said Julie.

Nicole Pavitt was beginning to think it wasn't her weekend. She arrived here sporting a swollen cheek due to a kick in the face the day before and then had a series of frustrating four-fault rounds. She put things right in Sunday's 1.25m class with one of the rounds of the show on her old favourite Amaryllys Van De Heffink. Their winning performance included a trip and a slip on a tight turn to a big double.

"I thought 'aagh' and just threw the reins at her. I have no

idea how she managed to jump it," said Nicole.

Tony Pearson completed his hat-trick of 1.15m wins – two on Arash and the other with Lord Portside – with the final round of the show.

"I'm really surprised. They've done hardly anything lately and I came straight here from a holiday," said Tony, who previously shared the ride on Lord Portside with his late father Russell.

"He was Dad's horse really. He bought him to ride himself and I just borrowed him now and again," he said.

The Dutch-bred Arash came to Tony in 2013 from Brendon Stud and they have since established a great partnership.

"He's brilliant against the clock. You have to hand it to the Light family. They know how to spot and produce winners," he said. **H&H**

RESULTS

27 Nov: 1.15m 2-phase. – 1, Lord Portside (T Pearson) GBR; 2, Clio V (J Punter) GBR; 3, Play Boy (S Poirier) FRA. **1.20m jump-off.** – 1, Miss Lyckad (J Andrews) GBR; 2, Cleopatra VIII (L Whitaker) GBR; 3, Crack Van Overis Z (E Slater) GBR. **1.30m 2-phase.** – 1, Cash Point (G Luckett) GBR; 2, Holly Congo (S Franks) GBR; 3, Omane Des Faux (B Vernon) GBR. **1.40m jump-off.** – 1, Bart VI (J Halim) GBR; 2, Tin Tin (B Twomey) IRE; 3, Larksong (H Tredwell) GBR. **28 Nov: 1.15m speed.** – 1 & 2, Arash & Lord Portside (T Pearson); 3, Christiaan (L Wood) GBR. **1.25m 2-phase.** – 1, Derby (J Halim); 2, Play Boy; 3, Chaplin II (D Neilson) GBR. **1.35m speed.** – 1, Witch (E Ward) GBR; 2, Billy Cool (W Funnell) GBR; 3, Kalico Bay (T Stockdale) GBR. **1.45m 2-phase.** – 1, Ardcolom Duke (B Twomey); 2, Cimano E (R Smith) GBR; 3, Catwalk IV (R Whitaker) GBR. **29 Nov: 1.25m jump-off.** – 1, Amaryllys Van De Heffink (N Pavitt) GBR; 2, Holly Congo; 3, Miss Lyckad. **GP.** – 1, Balibu (W Whitaker) GBR; 2, Billy Angelo (W Funnell); 3, Oldtown KC (T Breen) IRE. **1.35m 2-phase.** – 1, Witch; 2, Abrisco (J Halim); 3, Unbelievable Eddie (M Edwards) GBR. **1.15m 2-phase.** – 1 & 3, Arash & Lord Portside; 2, Clio V.

COMMENT

William Funnell



Early form is key for Rio

IT is the time of year when team managers decide which four legs of the 2016 Furusiyya FEI Nations Cups they would like to pick as their nation's qualifying competitions for the final. For next year's series there will be a whole different agenda as the main focus falls on selecting a team for Rio.

As Britain finished runners-up last year, Di Lampard has been one of the first to select, choosing three Nations Cups – La Baule, Rome and Rotterdam – before our compulsory home CSIO at Hickstead, as the ones that will count for points. Two of which, Rome and Rotterdam, are on a surface, as is Rio. Rotterdam will be the last before Di makes her final Olympic selection.

All riders who want to be considered will have to be selected and perform in these early Nations Cups, so good form at the start of the year is essential.

The earlier the riders can show their hand in Nations Cups, the easier it is then to let them follow their own agenda to produce their horses for Rio. It worked well this year – Joe Clee jumped early enough on a Nations Cup team that he could then build his horse's confidence around two-star tracks ahead of the Europeans.

On the subject of Rio, the Irish team's appeal is set for 16 December (news, p12).

An "act of god" is outside interference and someone running across and tripping on some flowers in front of you is arguably inside interference.

While Cian O'Connor was 15 strides from the fence, it clearly broke his rhythm and concentration and this matters round modern, technical courses. He took one more stride than he would have done and had he had not been as close, he might not have had it down. According to the FEI there should be a level playing field and there wasn't. It shouldn't happen at a place like Aachen.

It would be sad for Ireland not to qualify – they have three or four of the best horses they've had in years – but also sad to lose Spain, who qualified instead. I hope the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) can offer an extra place to Ireland and then everyone will be happy.

It's a shame when the criteria for Olympic qualification means that one mistake can lose a country its place. In Belgium's, one bad day in Aachen has meant that they won't be going to Rio – despite demonstrating they are the best team in the world by winning the Nations Cup final in Barcelona.

Transfer window

DECEMBER is an interesting month in a pre-Olympic year. By 15 January, the owner or joint-owner of a horse must be the same nationality as the country for which it competes at the Olympics. It makes it a busy time for horse-trading (see news, p10).

Michael Whitaker has seen two of his potential Olympic horses sold, both Velini and Calcourt Falkland going to Ukraine. There are tough choices to be made. You can make a mint but you can't have the money and go to the Olympics.

The joys of hunting

HOW refreshing it was to see a picture of Tina Cook's daughter Isabelle out hunting (report, 19 November). Nowadays we often see kids specialising too early and missing out on having fun. For Pippa and me, hunting was a great way to help learn feel and balance.

I used to have a pony that cat-jumped me off. Because my dad was a huntsman, the whipper-in looked after me. One day I fell off seven times – the whipper-in just picked me up by my collar and put me back on. It took a while, but eventually I learned some stickability. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Graham Fletcher



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SOUTH-WEST: 'He found everything very scary' – Damon's Gold's talent finally shines through, as the Damon Hill son and Sonnar Murray-Brown post a personal best of 84.82% at novice



SOUTH-WEST

Damon's Gold gets down to business

Horses and riders bounce back from injury and illness and cobs prove their versatility, while a horse sourced by Charlotte Dujardin turns out to be a winner and scores soar over 80%

SONNAR MURRAY-BROWN earned his highest ever score of 84.82% when Damon's Gold, a four-year-old by Damon Hill, won the novice 39 open qualifier at **West Wilts EC**, (19 November). The pair also claimed the novice 23 with a score of 77.03%, writes *Annabel Kerby*.

Based at Catherston Stud, Sonnar spotted Damon's Gold

at a Westfalian auction in October last year while he was training in Germany.

"I always liked Damon Hill and I knew I was the only person who wanted Damon's Gold as I was the only one to try him. He was a bit hot," said Sonnar.

"He's become more and more settled each time I take him out. To start with, he found everything very scary. He's a joy to ride, but you can't see any

of his talent when he's tense."

Sonnar paid tribute to his father, Mark, who gives him invaluable help at every show, holding Damon's Gold when Sonnar gets on and then leading him, despite not having an equestrian background.

Yeovil-based Lisa Sharpe and her former racehorse, the 12-year-old Lord Lieutenant, by Kaldounevees, headed both novice restricted classes at

Kingston Maurward, Dorset (22 November).

"We tried to event, but he doesn't like the cross-country," said Lisa, who is trained by Amanda Edmonds.

Lisa, 28, also won an elementary restricted test at **King's Sedgemore**, Somerset (21 November), on Redpath Eucanfly. The Jumbo mare is owned by Bridget Burbidge, for whom Lisa works as a groom.



NORTH-WEST: Former winning show cob Hazevern Wow Factor adapts well to the dressage arena, giving Toby Blake one of three victories, at elementary

AGAINST THE ODDS

'Vets gave him a 2% chance of survival'

LOTTIE FLINN counts herself lucky every time she rides Korenbloem Royal Rebel down the centre line.

The pair debuted their advanced medium freestyle music at **Myerscough Arena**, Lancs (21-22 November), and duly triumphed with a score of 74.83%.

"Two years ago he contracted meningitis and the vets gave him a 2% chance of survival," said Lottie.

"With their care he's made a miraculous recovery and it's ironic that he had a year off for all the wrong reasons but has come back better than ever.

Lottie bought the Rubels x Bright Speed gelding as a five-year-old and has brought him on herself.

"I hadn't even ridden him through the freestyle beforehand," she admitted. "My arena is only 20x40m and I've been too busy to box him anywhere to have a run-through."



NORTH-WEST

Blake banks a hat-trick

TOBY BLAKE was in sparkling form at **South View**, Cheshire (20 November), putting three wins under his belt, writes *Jo Prestwich*.

First up was the former show cob Hazevern Wow Factor, who won the elementary qualifier on 69.5%. The eight-year-old Irish draught, who is by Mount Diamond Flag, was successful in the show ring – including winning at the Great Yorkshire – before a large splint cut short his career.

"He did his first novice test at the end of April and I have a bet with his owner Cheryl Worthington that we'll go medium before Christmas," said Toby.

Wins two and three came at medium with Penny Lindop's Valdez x Jazz six-year-old Easter Bunny II.

"This was only his second show at the level and he has qualified for the regionals – I couldn't be more pleased," said Toby.

New recruits to the dressage scene triumphed at **Watt Meadow**, Staffs (23 November). Kirstie Morris took the top spot in both prelims with Glanvyrnwy Foxy Lady. Kirstie shares the Welsh/thoroughbred mare with her daughter Abigail, who plans to event her next year.

"We bought her in May and this was my second show with her," said Kirstie, who works as a human resources manager.

"We're supposed to be sharing her 50/50, but we fight over who gets to ride her!"

SOUTH-EAST Freestyle firsts

DAISY DOUGLASS on Saco W and trainee saddler Julia Balfour, with Trafalgar, tied on 71.94% to win the novice freestyle at **Merrist Wood**, Surrey (21 November), writes *Celia Cadwallader*.

Daisy, 12, said: "I'm proud of our score. He qualified the first time we did our freestyle. This is his third, and as it was practice for the regionals I didn't carry a whip. Since he's had his saddle refitted he is much more forward anyway."

Saco W, a 10-year-old, 13.3hh Dutch pony, has been with Daisy for just over a year.

"He's kind, but he can be sharp if he sees something spooky," she added.

Daisy is based at South African international rider Denise Hallion's yard in Droxford, Hants.

Julia Balfour, 21, is two years into a saddlery apprenticeship, based at Chobham Rider and working under master saddler Guy Barrett.

Wendy Yates' Dutch gelding Trafalgar, a 10-year-old by Libro, has been shaping up.

"Since I started riding him in January he's much stronger, more balanced and extends better," said Julia. "So we've changed his music, although we're using the same floorplan. We are a team now – we know what the other's doing, so we can push for more."

Beverley Voller and Martin Wright's Rocky Lane, by Rock King, earned 73.26% to top the restricted elementary freestyle. The 16-year-old former eventer, then broodmare, has been on loan to Beverley since March.

CENTRAL

From hunting field to dressage arena

SARAH VOUSDEN'S hunting cob, Harlequin, won his first straight prelim with 76.35% at **Moreton Morrell**, Warks (22 November), writes *Stephanie Bateman*.

The five-year-old gelding has been with Sarah for a year and started dressage earlier in 2015.

"He's a little poppet and only a day after this win, he was out jumping hunt rails with the Bicester Hunt with Whaddon Chase," said Sarah, who trains with Ian Cast. "I bought him mainly to hunt, but I do enjoy dressage and he seems to be quite good at it."

Another combination to win with plus-70% was Sam van den Berg and seven-year-old Disaronno SV, who topped both novices at **Quinton Stud**, Bucks (18 November).

Sam, who runs Huntersfield Equestrian Centre in Faringdon, has owned the gelding by Johnson for two years. Born in Holland, he was awarded ster predicate at his KWPN inspection before coming to the UK.

"It was a really windy day at Quinton, but he performed brilliantly and we've now



SOUTH-EAST: Beverley Voller tops an elementary with plus-73% on Rocky Lane



CENTRAL: Five-year-old Harlequin proves to be multi-talented, posting over 76% under Sarah Vousden in his first prelim, despite being more used to hunting

qualified for the regionals," said Sam. "He is a lot of horse to hold together and needs balancing, but he is getting stronger all the time."

Sam trains with Matt Burnett, who sold the horse to her as a youngster.

"He comes to shows with me and has been a massive help," added Sam.

Helen Jackson and her nine-year-old Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) dressage champion, Leverage, took both prelims with plus-70% at **Vale View EC**, Leics (18 November).

NORTH

Wilson reignites the Flame

CHARLOTTE WILSON'S home-bred five-year-old Flame Dancer has returned to competition with several good novice wins after a break of three months. The latest came at **NEC**, North Yorks (22 November), reports *Helen Scott*.

"She's upped her game, and got over her spookiness," said Charlotte, who gave the Floriscount mare a break after rain on the roof of temporary stabling at a show upset her.

"It really freaked her out, and she couldn't cope with the stress of competition. After the regionals, where she was pretty bad, I decided to give her a break and it seems to have worked," continued Charlotte.

"She's a chestnut mare, very

determined, and I think she could go far."

Another home-bred, Sam Arthur-Magennis' Springtime Jazz II, added two novice wins to his account at **Holmside Hall**, Co. Durham (22 November), putting them within touching distance of qualifying for the regionals.

The six-year-old is by Schiller, who was evented by David Gatherer, out of Sam's former event mare Springbok Gem.

"He's an eventer and contested the six-year-old

championships, but I decided to do British Dressage over the winter," said Sam, who is a qualified equine therapist and runs a livery yard. "The last time I did affiliated dressage was in 2007."

Sam didn't begin her season until June, due to strangles on the yard. She credits her trainer Omar Rabia with persuading her to give dressage a go.

Mel Rigal piloted her friend Nicola Nisbet's seven-year-old Rubinero mare Raincheck to a win and a second at **Port Royal EC**, East Yorks (18 November).

Nicola has been on the sidelines after she had an unscheduled dismount from the feisty mare six weeks ago, damaging her shoulder.

"She's talented but riding her has been a rollercoaster. Mel is helping de-spook her so I can return to the saddle," she said.

SOUTH

Dujardin makes a winning discovery

CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN found a winner for Malene Garfield-Davies when she recommended the six-year-old Dourados. Their competitive career started in July and at **Quob**,

Hants (18 November), the Desperados x Rubinstein gelding scored a personal best of 76.61% in the novice qualifier, writes *Helen Triggs*.

"I looked high and low and then Charlotte found him for me," said Malene, who trains with the Olympic champion and Alice Oppenheimer. "He threw me off the day before so I had a sore coccyx. He was recently clipped so he was super sharp, which is how I prefer him. He's working at medium at home so we'll concentrate on elementaries over the winter."

Sarah Bray completed her medium qualification with Violetta, a 13-year-old Inspekteur mare.

"The judge complimented me on her canter work. She feels lovely in canter – whatever you ask for she does," said Sarah, who also has Violetta's daughter, Velvet, out at prelim.

"I went wrong at Crofton three times last week in the hurricane weather, so I brought a caller today to make sure."

Beth Bainbridge visited **Snowball Farm**, Bucks (16 November) in a successful hunt for novice qualification for the Connell family's Bonita V and Lauren Derber's Cor. With a first and second in one class and first and third in the other, the mission was accomplished.

Bonita is a five-year-old by Bertoli W and has been ridden by Beth for four months.

"We were stuck in traffic so didn't have long to warm up, but she was good. She's quite hot but I've high hopes for her," she said.

"Cor is cheeky but he's the yard favourite. He's qualified for four regionals now. He's such a showman, he struts down the centre line," added Beth.

EAST

Dior turns over a new leaf

AT **Wix EC**, Essex (14-15 November), Andrew Cartledge and Dior VII posted an impressive 81.11% in a poignant novice freestyle win, writes *Selene Scarsi*.

This was only the third outing for the seven-year-old Valdez x Highline gelding, who is co-owned by the rider and his



SOUTH: Violetta, by Inspekteur, secures medium qualification for Sarah Bray

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EAST: Lisa Clarke Spence wins two novices with the Mill Law mare Jessica's Law

partner Kelly Anderson. Dior, now flying the flag for Andrew and Kelly's Keyland Stud in Suffolk, was tricky at first, and last year shattered Andrew's pelvis in a riding accident. The injury was so serious that it was feared Andrew would never ride again. Seven months later, however, he was back riding.

"It's wonderful to see our partnership cemented and realising how far we have come together.

"It was also nice to see a few nines, including for the amazing music by Ros Kay Freestyle Dressage Design. She's done all our freestyles and really listens to what suits the horse and rider," said Andrew.

At **Boyton Hall**, Suffolk (22 November), Lisa Clarke Spence took the prelim 14 on her own and long-standing friend and owner Nicky McAlister's Nicholai, by Dexter's Puzzle, who was purchased only 10 weeks ago.

Lisa also won both novices, and posted the day's highest score of 70.19%, on Jessica's Law, by Mill Law, owned by breeder Christine Nankivell.

Lisa, a BHSII who was "born in the saddle", runs competition livery and training centre Hemps Green Equestrian.

"We have a large number of London-based clients," said Lisa, who also provides a popular hunter and competition hiring service, including an eventer who will be competing in British Eventing next season.

"In these times when the cost of keeping horses is so high,

we're getting more and more people wanting to hire rather than own."

WALES & WEST 'As wild as a banshee'

EMMA CASTLE'S internet purchase is paying off, as her four-year-old mare Go Girl headed the novice 37 qualifier at **Kings EC**, Herefordshire (21 November), writes **Andrea Oakes**.

After Emma bought her unseen from the Netherlands last year, the Amazing Star filly arrived at the yard in hair-raising style.

"She was as wild as a banshee and leapt from the top of the lorry side ramp straight into our barn," said Emma, who trains with Paul Friday and



WALES & WEST: After a hair-raising start to their partnership, Emma Castle and Go Girl triumph at novice

RESULTS

BLUE BARN

Kent, 18 November

Prelim 150 rest (J Kendall).–1, Ballycris Anni (R Hill) 69.35; 2, Mister Chixaxed (S Reynolds) 65; 3, Dymock Ice Dancer (I Sheehy) 62.39. **prelim 170.**–1, N.J.L.'s Zeus (T Dahdi) 65; 2, Zamosa (K Vernon) 63.45. **rest.**–1, Ballycris Anni 68.85; 2, Mister Chixaxed 64.81; 3, Dymock Ice Dancer 64.04. **nov 23.**–1, Breitlings Innocent Wonder (J Bright) 71.85; 2, Waldon Wild Skye (T Dahdi) 69.07; 3, Da Vinci VI (C Stryzyk) 67.96. **rest.**–1, Timber III (A Platts) 65.37; 2, Maximus VI (S Hills) 60.93. **nov 39Q.**–1, Da Vinci VI 69.48; 2, Breitlings Innocent Wonder 67.59; 3, Waldon Wild Skye 65.34. **rest.**–1, Bill Bailey (T Reid) 69.14; 2, Timber III 65.34; 3, Be Decisive (N Bentley) 62.24. **elem 45.**–1, Willemien (A Hill) 70.34. **rest.**–1, Dalfsen Worame (J Taylor) 65.52; 2, Bill Bailey 65.17; 3, Horsmans Artillery (R Wright) 63.97. **elem 59Q (S Merrison).**–1, Entente Concordiale (E McGurk) 67.34. **rest.**–1, Chuchiqui LAT (R Wollerton) 67.03; 2, Horsmans Artillery 66.88; 3, Popstar (L Pilbeam) 66.09. **med 75Q.**–1, Papillon Noir (E McGurk) 65.14. **rest.**–1, Regal Hit (C Ashley) 66.89. **med FSM Q rest.**–1, Regal Hit 68.33; 2, Midnight Flash (B Draper-Jones) 67. **adv med 94.**–1, Dragonswick Czardas (C Lewis) 69.71. **adv med 92Q.**–1, Dragonswick Czardas 68.92; 2, Wishing Well (B Smit) 62.84. **adv med FSM Q.**–1, Papillon Noir 66.83. **PYO FEL.**–1, Wishing Well PSG 60.52.

MERRIST WOOD

Surrey, 21 November

Prelim 17Q (A Cardiff).–1, Whitehawk Majestic (F Wilson) 66.15. **rest.**–1, FGP Dita Von Teese (T Brooks) 66.73; 2, Aughabeg Cloonen (C Baker) 66.53; 3, Baybridge Happy Days (C Huyton) 64.03. **nov FSM Q (B Wright).**–1, Whitehawk Majestic 69.44; 2, Rubins Rhapsody (K-A Seaby) 69.44; 3, Rizwan BK (L Wickes) 65.27. **rest.**–1, Trefalgar (J Balfour) & Saco W (D Douglass) 71.94; 3, Grayswood Xtra Spice (E Bailey) 71.11. **elem FSM Q (L Waller).**–1, Tom Cruz (M Schleicher) 76.34; 2, Kilsallagh Chathal (B Morris) 71.15; 3, Woodcroft Schwarzdiamont (J Edwards) 70.38. **rest.**–1, Rocky Lane (B Voller) 73.26; 2, Touch Of Frost IV (E Peek) 72.3; 3, The Maxfactor (A Radford) 68.26. **med FSM Q (D Pateman).**–1, First Finesse (Z Leishman) 70.16. **rest.**–1, Woodcroft Schwarzdiamont 71.16; 2, Violetta (S Bray) 69.83; 3, Marmalade Monty (N Hellehouse) 67.33. **adv med FSM Q (M Terry).**–1, Diluccio (C Brougham) 68.66; 2, MX Woodman (M Schleicher) 67.83; 3, Marmalade Monty 59.5. **PSG FSM Q (M Terry).**–1, Keystone For Real (D Poynter) 71.25; 2, Bon Ami XXX (B Martin) 70; 3, Vortuyn (J Banks) 68.

MORRIS EC

Ayrshire, 14-15 November

Prelim 7 rest (K Ogilvie).–1, Frazier (J Cameron) 68; 2, Machno Diamante (A McArthur) 66.75; 3, Capo The Prophet (J Cammidge) 62.25. **prelim 17 rest (G Ranshaw).**–1, Frazier 66.35. **nov 24.**–1, Lintavon Stormbird (G White) 66.92; 2, Popstar III (S Morton) 65.77; 3, Movimagic (N Gillespie Crolla) 64.42. **rest.**–1, Allez-V (J Cameron) 65.19. **nov 39 (K Ogilvie).**–1, Lintavon Stormbird 64.31. **rest.**–1, Figueurin (T McRoberts) 65.34; 2, Zazzu (L Clements) 65.17; 3, Umbro II (M Little) 62.07. **elem 42 rest (P Beattie).**–1, Umbro II 63.75; 2, Ashton Solitaire (K Turnbull) 63.75; 3, Arland H (P Parker) 61.09. **elem 59Q rest (L Barnes).**–1, Bonnitas Rass (G White) 64.53; 2, Midsummer Skye (S Adam) 64.06; 3, Arland H 62.03. **med 69 (P Beattie).**–1, Gracioso L (F Peto) 63.18; 2, Adonis K (S Morton) 61.21. **rest.**–1, Chesterhill Florence (R Darling) 66.97. **med 75Q.**–1, Gracioso L 65.41. **prelim 4 rest (K Ogilvie).**–1, Clyde (J Cammidge) 69.77; 2, Beckham (L Denholm) 67.05. **prelim 15Q rest (L Love).**–1, Dunbeggan Diamond Boy (C Mosley) 66.52; 2, Frazier 65.22; 3, Beckham 61.96. **nov 27.**–1, Lintavon Stormbird 63.39; 2, Popstar III 59.82. **rest.**–1, Allez-V 66.61. **nov 35Q.**–1, Lintavon Stormbird 65.86; 2, Popstar III 65. **rest.**–1, Craigloch Waltzing Matilda (L Brown) 66.21; 2, Allez-V 60. **elem 42 (P Beattie).**–1, Arland H 62.97; 2, Craigloch Waltzing Matilda 61.56. **elem 45 (L Love).**–1, Bonnitas Rass 65.86; 2, Arland H 62.59. **med 71Q (P Beattie).**–1, Adonis K 67.26; 2, Gracioso L 65.32. **rest.**–1, Chesterhill Florence 59.19; 2, Zander X (S Duncan) 56.61. **med 69.**–1, Adonis K 68.48. **rest.**–1, Chesterhill Florence 64.7. **adv med 94 (P Beattie).**–1, Solitaire 62.65; 2, Gracioso L 61.91. **PSG (P Beattie).**–1, Corchapin (J Hamilton) 73.82; 2, Solitaire 65.

MYERSCOUGH ARENA

Lancs, 21-22 November

PSG FSM Q (A Crane).–1, De La Clair (S Pattinson) 64.87. **adv med FSM Q.**–1, Korenbloem Royal Rebel (L Finn) 74.83; 2, Just Lilly (S Miller) 71. **rest.**–1, Caspari VC (K Thorne) 71.83. **adv med 98Q.**–1, Hey Mambo (L Marriott) 67.76; 2, Korenbloem Royal Rebel (E Bradshaw) 64.08. **rest.**–1, Caspari VC 67.37. **med FSM**

Q.–1, Caspari VC 71.5; 2, Waros (K Thorne) 71.33. **rest.**–1, Spring Bok (J Newsham) 67.67. **med 73Q.**–1, Gypsy Fortune (G Foggion) 70.15; 2, Waros 66.03. **rest.**–1, Spring Bok 64.56; 2, Maid In Holland (A Dixon) 63.82; 3, Maestro Lulu (K Owen) 62.35. **elem FSM Q.**–1, My Wishing Well (P Hamilton) 68.46; 2, Dondersteen (E Perry) 64.23. **rest.**–1, Bianka II (H Nuttall) 70; 2, Townend Wager (J Matthews) 68.27; 3, Zwelgie L (S Jagger) 66.35. **elem 53Q (L McCann).**–1, Cavey's Wizard (K Thorne) 67.21; 2, Woodlander Dr Feelgood (C Taylor) 65.88; 3, Boo2u2 Moo (E Jolleys) 63.53. **rest.**–1, Brigant (W Harling) 62.06; 2, Anna (C Nixon) 61.47; 3, Dominica (J Ludy) 59.56. **nov FSM Q (S Edwards).**–1, Gypsy Fortune 71.94; 2, Treliver Divine (G Twaddell) 70; 3, Forest Conker (A Hartley) 69.44. **rest.**–1, Bramble V (C Millington) 69.44; 2, Rocky VI (V Clutton) 69.44; 3, Torpenhow Ruby (R Whittaker) 68.33. **nov 37Q (L McCann).**–1, Comtess (C Lutener) 63.21; 2, Treliver Divine 61.43. **rest.**–1, Westhills Wravall (L Sweetland) 68.04; 2, Falco (P Holden) 65.89; 3, Zillion H (S Howen) 64.64. **prelim 15 (J Zaldats).**–1, Freaky Friday (D Aitken) 69.57; 2, Davinci Diamond (J Butler) 68.7; 3, Timecraft (D Chamberlain) 66.74. **rest.**–1, Rubik (K De Dopenard) 69.78; 2, Newlands Keizer (P Holden) 69.35; 3, Aspect (C Blunt) 69.35.

OLDENCRAIG

Surrey, 20 November

Prelim 17Q rest (B Beresford-Wright).–1, Dancing With Tigger (G Whelan) 74.03; 2, Show Motion (G Peacock) 74.03; 3, Duke Of Love (S Lane) 70.96. **prelim 19Q rest (A Greenaway).**–1, Dancing With Tigger 71.59; 2, Eyes So Nice (V Morgan) 68.14; 3, Rowdown Walkabout (C Freed) 68.48. **nov 22 (B Beresford-Wright).**–1, Keystone Can Doo (S Burgess) 78.62; 2, Crismans Colin (K Tarrant) 70. **rest.**–1, Vision De Sarkeem (E Taggart) 74.82; 2, Alvscot Wysiwyg (A Mersh) 72.75; 3, Black Bottoms (C Hayes) 69.48. **nov 37Q (A Greenaway).**–1, Crismans Colin 68.21; 2, Leading Lady (A Kemper) 67.14. **rest.**–1, Alvscot Wysiwyg 65.89; 2, Black Bottoms 66.07; 3, Vision De Sarkeem 64.28. **elem 53 (B Beresford-Wright).**–1, Keystone Can Doo 74.85; 2, Midnight Czar (K Tarrant) 71.02. **rest.**–1, Bristol Blue (K Botting) 68.52. **elem 57Q (A Greenaway).**–1, Paudry's Pogo (R Hulbert) 69.1; 2, Midnight De Saussay (R Hulbert) 68.03; 3, Midnight Czar 65.17. **rest.**–1, Bristol Blue (K Botting) 67.32. **med 69 (B Beresford-Wright).**–1, Arabella II (S Burgess) 69.39. **rest.**–1, Grey Fox II (P Comley) 69.39; 2, Avignon (R Hulbert) 62.72. **med 75Q (A Greenaway).**–1, Arabella II 72.83. **rest.**–1, Avignon 62.56; 2, Half Moon Bonarda (S Parkinson) 62.02; 3, Grey Fox II 61.35. **adv med 96 (M Ruddock).**–1, Affinity Bay (D Coakley) 68.94. **rest.**–1, Titan (T Seed) 62.5. **adv med 98Q.**–1, Affinity Bay 70.52; 2, Carenzo III (S Edwards) 69.34. **rest.**–1, Titan (T Seed) 61.31. **PYO FEL.**–1, Jacaro (V Thompson-Winfield) Inter I 68.94; 2, Cerano Gold (L Wells) PSG 62.76.

WIX EC

Essex, 14-15 November

14 Nov: nov FSM Q (M Thornley).–1, Harlequin (L Moggridge) 66.11. **rest.**–1, Dior VII (A Cartledge) 81.11. **elem FSM Q rest.**–1, Dons Special (A De Silva) 68.07; 2, City Slicker (J Hyde) 67.69; 3, Harlequin 63.46. **med FSM Q (D Green).**–1, Eurobase Siena (R Hurst) 69.83; 2, Tabor (A Begg) 69.66; 3, Diamond Son II (T Atkins) 69.16. **rest.**–1, Regrette (T Kusich) 73.16; 2, Aktie D (L Field) 69; 3, Soloway Black Jack (F Gordon-Clarke) 64. **med 61.**–1, Sir Bastien (E Bird) 73.1; 2, Reubens (T Downham) 68.62. **rest.**–1, Give It A Look (M Dunne) 66.72; 2, Donner Lord III (A Goodey) 66.2; 3, Felice 41 (D Pack) 64.82. **med 73Q.**–1, Lanson (A Smyth) 67.2; 2, Sir Bastien 66.91. **rest.**–1, Raindance (A Uden) 71.32; 2, Decorum (J Penwarden) 68.82; 3, Donner Lord III 66.17. **adv med 85 (S Howard).**–1, Lonswelt (P Hayler) 78.52. **rest.**–1, Fabia Bee (H Theobald) 72.94. **adv med 98Q.**–1, Lonswelt 78.42; 2, Woodlander Wavavoom (P Hayler) 77.89. **rest.**–1, Fabia Bee 69.07; 2, Don Karibia (H Liddiard) 66.71. **adv 105.**–1, The Governor (S Butchart) 70.55. **PYO.**–1, Ulani (S Binks) 66.31; 2, Western Squire (S Heath) 62.1. **FSM adv med Q.**–1, Woodlander Wavavoom 83.5; 2, Baker Gardens Monty (R Skeffington) 74.83. **15 Nov: prelim 17 (J Lywood).**–1, Queen Of Hearts (V Boys) 61.53. **rest.**–1, Aghed George (J Green) 68.84. **prelim 19Q.**–1, Queen Of Hearts 65.45. **rest.**–1, Jack (D Bennett) 67.95; 2, Aghed George 67.95. **nov 22.**–1, Palo De Rosa (J Burgess) 74.13; 2, Walden Fusilier (K Petley) 68.96; 3, Stavdsals Jackpot (S Owen) 66.2. **rest.**–1, Jessica's Law (L Clarke-Spence) 70.17; 2, Dior VII 66.72; 3, De Vossebelts Nibbit (G Millar) 66.03. **nov 39Q (S Broom).**–1, Palo De Rosa 74.48; 2, Deluxe II (K Haywood-Rand) 69.82; 3, Energie II (L Johnston) 65.68. **rest.**–1, Dior VII 69.31; 2, Jessica's Law 68.44; 3, De Vossebelts Nibbit 64.65. **elem 45 rest.**–1, Cemiro (M Clough) 72.41; 2, Jessica's Law 68.79; 3, Bally Murphy VIII (E Warren) 62.41. **elem 59Q.**–1, Graffiti (C Briggs) 60.62.

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backed Go Girl herself. "She's still sharp, but hopefully time will help. I've switched to Carl Hester's way of putting youngsters out at night, which really seems to work."

Emma also won the elementary freestyle with her partner Kevin Armstrong's gelding Sir Euroman.

"As a yearling the horse was very ill," said Emma. "They did every test going but couldn't find out what was wrong. When the cattle vet came to the farm he said, 'Turn him out with the cows – he'll live or die.'"

"He's now six years old, and a good 17.2hh."

Sarah Clack is facing a happy dilemma with her eventer Bold Rex, who scored a hat-trick of wins at **Burrows Court Farm**, Glos (21 November). The Ramexico gelding headed the prelim 15 qualifier and both novices with substantial plus-70% scores, sharing novice qualifier honours with Melissa Gerrard and Fernando VII.

"I'm tempted to go down the dressage route, as I know he has the ability, but I'd like to event him at novice next year," said Sarah, whose 12-year-old has also competed in working hunters. "He does everything."

SCOTLAND

Patience pays for O'Mara

ALLOWING Viper CD time to mature has paid off for Morag O'Mara, who headed a novice restricted at **SNEC**, West Lothian (21-22 November), writes **Melanie Scott**.

Morag was pleased with the progress shown by the Colin Diamond nine-year-old.

"I bought him as a newly backed four-year-old to event, but he's been very slow to mature," explained Morag. "He can be self-opinionated and quirky, but I think this comes down to confidence."

"He's a big horse and has grown a lot – it has taken time for him to get balanced. He's not the bravest, but I really feel his flatwork has improved."

"I was pleased with his test – I felt he was really listening to me. It's important to keep him calm and focused on me,"

added Morag, who is also riding her daughter Alex's event horse, Mr Incredible, while she is at university this winter.

NHS statistician Annemarie Van Heelsum scored 74.42% to head a novice with Bolinda on their first affiliated outing.

The Landlord mare, now nine, was imported from Holland as three-year-old for Annemarie to event. They are now competing at BE100 level, and won at Hutton-in-the-Forest (1) in June.

"She enjoys the dressage although we need to work on the showjumping this winter. I hope to move up to novice eventing," said Annemarie.

Gillian White topped six classes at **Morris EC**, Ayrshire (14-15 November). Her Connemara gelding Lintavon Stormbird headed four novice classes, while nine-year-old Bonnita Rass, a Scottish sport horse by 00 Seven, was a double elementary winner. **H&H**



SCOTLAND: In-form Gillian White lands four novices with Lintavon Stormbird

COMMENT

Pammy Hutton



Who will be 'the one'?

AS Olympic year approaches, Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro, Carl Hester with Nip Tuck, plus Fiona Bigwood and Atterupgaards Orthilia must be near certainties for team places. It's the question of "the other one" – and soundness – that will keep us all enthralled.

In the mix are Michael Eilberg, Gareth Hughes, Spencer Wilton, Hayley Watson-Greaves, Alice Oppenheimer, Laura Tomlinson, Lara Griffith and Anna Ross.

But never doubt Richard Davison's ability to come from behind. My spies tell me that Bubblingh, his home-bred, nine-year-old, lightly competed Lingham x Picandt gelding, showed huge promise on an international outing to Lier, Belgium last month (report, 12 November). They have yet to achieve high enough scores, but with Richard's impeccable timing, they could be "the one".

A logical lateral move

IS the turn on the forehand a dead exercise, as someone told me recently? I can't think of a single reason to bin it. Indeed, the only thing that brings it into disrepute is its name – no movement should encourage a horse on to the forehand.

Essential for opening gates, the turn on the forehand is a logical introduction to lateral work. Done softly and moving forward, it's helpfully the first time we ask a horse to yield to the leg. The Spanish Riding School still uses it to begin training just that.

The great Alois Podhajsky advocates the turn on the forehand in his book *The Complete Training of Horse and Rider*, which, like the exercise itself, is an old classic that shouldn't be forgotten.

How about a step up?

ACCORDING to my British Dressage (BD) rulebook, Area Festivals have classes up to and including inter I. Surely there's now a need for inter II as well?

Many partnerships can accomplish inter II, but it's not

held at summer national championships level. BD, please give this further thought.

Navigation techniques

THERE'S much to learn from the BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing* – technique versus enthusiasm, attention to detail, heeding judges' advice...

Strictly contestants often say that it gets easier to learn the dance routines as the weeks go by, something that also applies to memorising dressage tests.

Tried and tested methods include pacing the carpet, drawing on paper and a whole host of apps and audio aids. An endurance riding friend recommends putting test sheets into a clear map case – the sort used by hikers – and attaching it to the front of the saddle.

A good idea for practising at home, this eliminates rustling paper, soggy sheets in the rain or the need for a helper.

Meanwhile I hope the FEI's newly approved "two mistakes and you're eliminated" rule is re-discussed before we all need mini maps on our pommels.

All I want for Christmas

WHEN you have horses, you're never stuck for ideas when asked what presents you'd like.

I desperately need a beautiful double bridle – mine is so old and unfashionable. Then there's the hair that bounces straight back when I take off my hat, and a Dimaggio youngster...

Socks are always welcomed, although this year's must-have stocking filler is a competition waistcoat and shirt. Now that riders can ditch their jackets in hot weather, appropriately smart under-attire is required in case of stripping off.

There are no gifts good enough for those nearest and dearest who look after us and our horses throughout the year. Our Christmas at home will be old-fashioned with me cooking, husband Brian in charge of drinks, and presents erring towards the practical.

I wish you all a happy one, with some well-earned rest and recovery factored in too. **H&H**

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FFY5



'Pure fun': Ingrid Klimke and the enthusiastic Parmenides learn from a mistake in Stuttgart to put in a winning performance this time

Klimke reigns supreme

Sweden International Horse Show indoor cross-country, Stockholm

26 November

By Gemma Redrup

THE dominance of Germany continued to the indoor cross-country competition in Stockholm. Ingrid Klimke once again proved why she is one of the best eventers in the world, walking away with a brand new John Deere tractor and €2,000 (£1,400) in prize money courtesy of her round on Marion and Eric Gottschalk's 11-year-old Parmenides.

The Trakehner by Sir Chamberlain was placed at the seven-year-old World Championships at Le Lion d'Angers in 2011 and then went on to secure two top-10 placings



Full steam ahead: Gemma Tattersall and Tropique are best of the Brits in sixth

at CIC3* level in 2012 before he was retired from eventing due to injury.

The atmosphere at the Swedish show was electric, with a packed out audience and loud music more akin to a dance club

than a high-profile equestrian event. Swedish competitor Ludwig Svennerstal even got the 9,000-capacity crowd on their feet clapping and cheering along to his round.

"It was so much fun," said

Ingrid. "But you have to be really focused as the fences come up quickly and the course was challenging."

Ingrid now enjoys showjumping Parmenides up to 1.50m and in six-bar classes, which she said definitely played in her favour with regards to this competition.

"Parmenides is pure fun," Ingrid said of the horse she has ridden since he was a three-year-old. "He loves speed and jumping so this class is ideal."

The combination had a run-out at the Stuttgart German Masters Indoor Derby (report, 26 November), a week previously.

"I hadn't prepared him or practised the type of fences we were going to face, so the run-out was completely my fault," admitted Ingrid. "He's a



'He keeps surprising me': runner-up Dan Jocelyn on the consistent Beaucatcher

hot and over enthusiastic horse, so I went home and practised before Stockholm and he really benefited. He listened and waited for me this time."

Ingrid praised the organisers, who paid for each competitor to travel and stay at the event, including the grooms.

"It's a class which is a great shop window for our sport," said Ingrid. "Hopefully it will help to attract more sponsors to support eventing in the future."

Beaucatcher takes second

THE format of this competition involves competitors taking on a mixture of 18 showjumping and cross-country fences set out on a supremely technical course, including a water fence, bank and plenty of skinnies, favouring more experienced horses. This type of competition attracts high-profile combinations who fight for every 10th of a second thanks to the attractive prize pot.

Runner-up Dan Jocelyn gave it his best shot with the nine-year-old three-star horse Beaucatcher, owned by himself and his partner Tanya Cleverly since he was a three-year-old.

Dan, a British-based Kiwi, finished clear, less than two 10th of a second behind Ingrid (72.65 seconds).

"I watched Ingrid make the perfect turn to the last fence and just thought 'wow' – we couldn't have done any more and I'm so proud of my horse for getting so close to a win, although the tractor would have been nice," said Dan, who came

seventh in the similar class at Stuttgart.

"I watched my round back a few times before we went to Stockholm to see where I could improve and I decided I needed to put my foot down earlier on in the course," he said.

This rounds off a solid year for Dan and Beaucatcher, who jumped clear around Boekelo CCI3* cross-country eight weeks ago.

"He's a great horse – I didn't think he would suit this course, but he's very laid-back and just keeps surprising me as we ask him a different question," explained Dan.

The New Zealander was sandwiched by another German, Andreas Ostholt, who finished in third place riding Pennsylvania 28, a 15-year-old mare who has been a trusty three-star servant to Andreas. The pair were again less than two 10ths of a second behind Dan.

Sadly none of the British competitors rode a clear round, each clocking up four faults. Gemma Tattersall came up with the goods with regards to speed but she knocked fence 14, a square oxer showjump off a turn that turned out to be the bogey fence, claiming nine victims. This put paid to her chance of winning the class with the flashy gelding Tropique, as she slipped to sixth.

This former three-star horse owned by Charlotte Huggett and Sue Johnstone retired from eventing in 2013 and now specialises in classes such as this one.

IN THE GENES

Fairnando

SWEDEN'S Linda Algotsson rode the 10-year-old Swedish warmblood stallion Fairnando (pictured, below), owned by her parents Margareta and Bo Christer Algotsson. She jumped a clear round to clinch fourth place.

By World, European and Olympic silver medallist showjumper Cardento, Fairnando – who is a successful three-star eventer – is out of Fairlisa, who competed to 1.20m showjumping and one-star eventing. Fairnando's nine-year-old half-brother Fairnet has also clocked up four top-10 placings at three-star level in 2015.

Fairnando's granddam is the Algotsson family's foundation mare Princess Fair. Her offspring include Stand By Me, who competed at two Olympic Games (2004 and 2008) and took individual silver with Linda at the 1999 European Championships. She also produced European Championship horse My Fair Lady, and one of her granddaughters is 2012 London Olympic individual silver eventing medalist Wega, ridden by Linda's sister Sara Algotsson Ostholt.



Wills Oakden, a senior eventing squad debutant this year, put in a valiant effort to finish ninth with Merkano (78.14 seconds) while Laura Collett was 11th with her indoor cross-country specialist Mr Bass (79.31 seconds).

New Zealand's Jesse Campbell took a tumble when his mount Apart VD Hoefslag Z misjudged the bank and tried to clear it in one. The final British

contender was Emily Llewellyn with her four-star partner Greenlawn Sky High, who jumped a relatively steady round for four faults to finish in 14th place from 16 starters (82.81 seconds). **H&H**

RESULTS

Indoor cross-country – 1, Parmenides (I Klimke) GER 72.48; 2, Beaucatcher (D Jocelyn) NZL 72.65; 3, Pennsylvania 28 (A Ostholt) GER 72.81; 6, Tropique (G Tattersall) GBR 76.09.

A successful event horse who came to the sport late in life retires, *H&H*'s amateur photographer contest opens, and the FEI looks at rules for indoor competitions



Nachtigall, now 23, completes her first advanced at Little Downham this year with Susan Eggleton

End of an era for Nachtigall

SUSAN EGGLETON announced the retirement of her prolific winner Nachtigall at the age of 23 at the South East Eventers' League (SEEL) ball on 21 November at High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The pair won the Littleton Manor leading horse and rider award for the third consecutive year.

The Dover-based rider, who runs the international horse transit business Equine Transport Agency, has been given the leading horse and rider trophy to keep. And SEEL is naming the new award after Nachtigall.

"Nellie' has won 13 SEEL trophies in total," said Susan. "Some fantastic horses have come through SEEL in its 20-year history and it's an honour to have this in her name."

Susan was given Nachtigall in 2010 by her friend Nicky Killon, who was moving to

Cyprus. The mare had never affiliated, but has now won 13 times from BE100 up to open intermediate and been placed in the top 10 on more than 70% of her completed runs.

"Nellie will do some dressage now and if Nicky's circumstances allow, she may go back to her next summer and do some veteran showing," said Susan.

Susan will start competing Nachtigall's three-year-old embryo transfer filly by Grafenstolz, Grafennacht, next year. She was awarded an elite premium as a yearling at the British Equestrian Federation Futurity.

The weekend before the SEEL event, the BE Scotland ball took place at Airth Castle Hotel, Stirling. Prize-winners included Ronnie Bartlett's Bear Necessity V, who is ridden by Blyth Tait and is the leading Scottish-owned British Eventing (BE) points winner this year.



Matt Campbell from EQU StreamZ presents the SEEL under-21 trophy to Morgann Bloquet



Lucinda Crawford (left) and Isabella Mackenzie share the Mondana Star Trophy, donated by the Haddow family and presented by Jim Spiers from Advanced Roller Doors, for the leading under-18 Scottish BE points winner

NEWS IN BRIEF

- THE FEI eventing committee will adapt the guidelines for indoor eventing classes into formal rules. The issue was raised at the recent FEI General Assembly, with the intention of regulating demonstration classes at FEI jumping and dressage events, such as the one at Stockholm (report, p80). Among the existing recommendations are that competitors and the course-designer should be qualified to three-star level.

- IRISH rider Ciaran Glynn and his wife Emily have a new daughter, Megan Edna Glynn, who was born on 4 November. Italian Olympian Susanna Bordone and her husband Simone are celebrating the arrival of Agata, a sister to two-year-old Alfonso.

- BADMINTON'S charity of the year for 2016 will be World Horse Welfare. *H&H* is also supporting a charity in 2016 – find out which one in our 31 December issue.

- BE'S Future Talent Two-Star League, for young British-ridden horses, will next year be sponsored by Calver Wealth Management, a representative of Barbury sponsors St James's Place Wealth Management.

Enter our amateur photographer competition

HAVE you taken a brilliant eventing photo in 2015? If so, enter our amateur photographer competition. The prize is one money can't buy: press accreditation to the Mitsubishi Badminton Horse Trials 2016.

We're looking for classic great action pictures, but also backstage shots, quirky angles and innovative photos.

To enter, send a maximum of three photos — taken at British Eventing or FEI affiliated events during the 2015 season — as prints, together with the same pictures as high resolution jpgs on disc to Photography Competition, *Horse & Hound*, 8th Floor, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU.

Please include details of the horse/rider/venue, plus the photographer's name, address, phone number and email address. This contest is only open to amateurs who have never had their pictures published before.

Closing date: 31 January 2016. No pictures can be returned and the winning photos will be published in a future issue of *H&H*. Terms and conditions, p117. **H&H**



This shot of Tim Lips and Keyflow NOP by Victor Krijt won the photo competition run by *H&H*'s sister magazine *Eventing* last year

COMMENT

Alec Lochore



We must work together

SPORT worldwide is facing a crisis. Hardly a week passes without a new scandal across countless different sports, whether it be allegations of corruption at major championships or charges of widespread doping.

In any sport, to be the best takes total commitment. The rewards, although not necessarily financial, are enough to tempt athletes away from the moral code of fair play.

While there is much to be positive about in equestrian sport, we walk a tightrope — inclusion at the Olympics after 2016 is not a given.

But disappointingly in eventing we are notoriously apathetic. The FEI committee rider rep was elected with a mere 27 rider votes, while there were many empty seats at the British Eventing AGM this autumn, despite it being held at Osberton, which was awash with owners and riders.

What we need to do

THE International Olympic Committee have given us with the road map for what we must consider with the Agenda 2020.

We must remain a clean sport — drug infringements are rare, but one case is one too many. To secure our Olympic position we must all work together to give a cleaner than clean, exciting, popular spectacle.

Julian Seaman suggests that eventing is not a team sport (comment, 12 November) — I disagree. Team tactics can play a huge part in the result and even the drop score is vital — as in cycling, where another athlete can massively contribute to his team-mate's victory.

In a team event, support is all about the national flag not the individual, as all who experienced the atmosphere at London 2012 will know. It is crucial that we retain this engagement and encourage national pride in our athletes.

The FEI is being pro-active with regards to the Agenda 2020, as are many national federations who have assembled working groups. Eventing is land-hungry,

expensive and not without risk, so we need to stake our claim for inclusion convincingly.

Our sport might be small, by global measures, but our strengths outweigh that, not just visually but due to our gender equality. It is time to engage with everyone who has even the smallest equestrian interest so that they follow our sport through all channels — especially during Rio 2016.

While I'm for modernisation I also urge caution. We must not compromise our sport by threatening its integrity. Eventing can be difficult to understand for an outsider, so changes must be well thought through to benefit the longer term and provide consistency between the Olympics and what happens every other week.

Federations' vital role

AWAY from the Games we must continue to develop the sport through exploitation of commercial rights, raising awareness and exposure. Generally this responsibility lies with small, committed, hard-working groups of individuals.

It is disappointing — and I think wrong — that little real help and co-ordination comes from the national federations. With more backing from them, sponsorship might be easier to secure and therefore exposure (to benefit the Agenda 2020 cause) and prize money more appropriate. The FEI have series such as the eventing Nations Cup, but with no title sponsorship this great concept is unable to move forwards.

In the UK we have many fish in a small pond bidding for the same sponsorship pound. Readers might be surprised at which events are barely viable, but top riders are dissatisfied with prize money. I understand this and work hard to make the situation better, but where does this money come from?

We must be positive and united, as well as more pro-active and collaborative across the whole sport. **H&H**

• *Alec Lochore is an event organiser and was eventing manager at London 2012.*

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COMMENT

Carole Mortimer



Rugs on foals: why oh why?

OVER-RUGGING horses has been a particular bugbear of mine for several years. I am not alone. At the recent World Horse Welfare conference it was cited as one of the reasons that we have an epidemic of overweight and obese horses.

Not that long ago, rugs were the preserve of clipped horses only. They had two rugs; a New Zealand to wear outside and a jute stable rug worn with blankets underneath for inside. And when turned out for holidays they wore nothing but their own coat — and survived.

Now there is barely a horse in the land that doesn't have a veritable wardrobe of rugs for every occasion and climate. Even unclipped native types are commonly seen wrapped in a parcel of Gore-Tex while many horses live their whole lives in the

confines of a rug — generally for owners' reasons that their horse must be cold, suffer from sun or flies or because they might even get dirty. How these horses must long for freedom and a naked roll.

Rugs mean horses get too hot, and do not use the calories that they are often overfed. They can also create the perfect warm climate for parasites such as lice. How often do we see a rugged-up horse suffering in the warmth of the day because it was chilly when his owner left for work?

Rugs for foals too

AND since when did it start to become routine for healthy foals to wear rugs too? And why?

Foals have managed to live and thrive for goodness knows how many hundreds of years without being swaddled in waterproof nylon by day and quilted polyester by night, to say nothing of the added danger a rug poses to a young, inquisitive horse. I wouldn't sleep if I had a foal in a rug. Was it caught up on the fence? What if it slipped over its head or the foal's legs were caught in the straps? It doesn't bear thinking about.

Domestic horses are still basically the same wild horse of aeons ago. They have been designed to have their own well-adjusted means of thermoregulation — which means that they can control their own body temperature without the addition of a rug.

Goodness knows what happens to their thermoregulation mechanisms when from the beginning of their lives they are confused or working overtime.

As nature intended

THE basic method of thermoregulation is the coat which, if left alone, will adapt to the external climate. In winter the horse will grow a thick coat, which is more efficient if the mud is left on.

A horse is well adapted to coping with cold. A foal with a rug will not grow a coat. This is even worse if the poor foal is stabled. Not only will it be too warm because of the rug and therefore not using calories to keep warm, but the calories will also be put in store because it is not moving around either. It's a recipe for obesity and poor musculoskeletal development.

To breed a useful horse, foals and youngsters should live life as nature intended. They need the space and freedom to move and eat 24 hours a day, as well as company, preferably in a herd of horses of a similar age.

Foals should not be brought up in the world of small paddocks with limited grazing, isolation, DIY stable yards, over-petting, rugs and three meals a day. They are horses, not lap dogs.

Anyone without the acres necessary to keep a foal or young horse outside for the majority of its formative years should not be breeding or keeping one. **H&H**

BLOODLINES

HOCHADEL

2000 Hanoverian stallion

Breeder: Hans Gunther Berner

Owner: Romanno Stud

THE well-known Hanoverian breeding stallion Hochadel (right) is now standing in Britain, having been acquired by the Lanarkshire-based Romanno Stud from the famous Celle State Stud near Hanover where he has stood since he was licensed as a two-year-old.

The following year the now 15-year-old won his performance test having been awarded 10 for rideability and walk, and nine for his trot.

Hochadel is by the successful Trakehner Hohenstein — the Trakehner stallion of the year in 2002. His offspring include the licensing champion His Highness and the grand prix dressage stallion Munchhausen, as well as the international grand prix horses Insterberg TSF and Her Highness O (currently competing in America), international young rider horses Hohenstaufen I and II and the 2013 European junior champion Habitus.

Hochadel's dam Deauville is a daughter of the German gold medal team horse Donnerhall, who became one of the most influential sires and needs no introduction to breeders. Deauville is also the dam of the stallion Lord Deauville (by Lord Sinclair).

After a successful stud career in Germany, Hochadel has 1,184 Hanoverian registered offspring, 73 state premium Hanoverian registered mares and eight licensed Hanoverian stallions including Horatio — a bundeschampionat bronze medallist now competing at inter I — and the young rising star stallion Heinrich Heine who is standing at Celle and making a name for himself as a sire. **H&H**



SIRE
Hohenstein
TRAK 1991

DAM
Deauville
HAN 1993

Caprimond TRAK 1985

Helena XIV TRAK 1983
(by Matador)

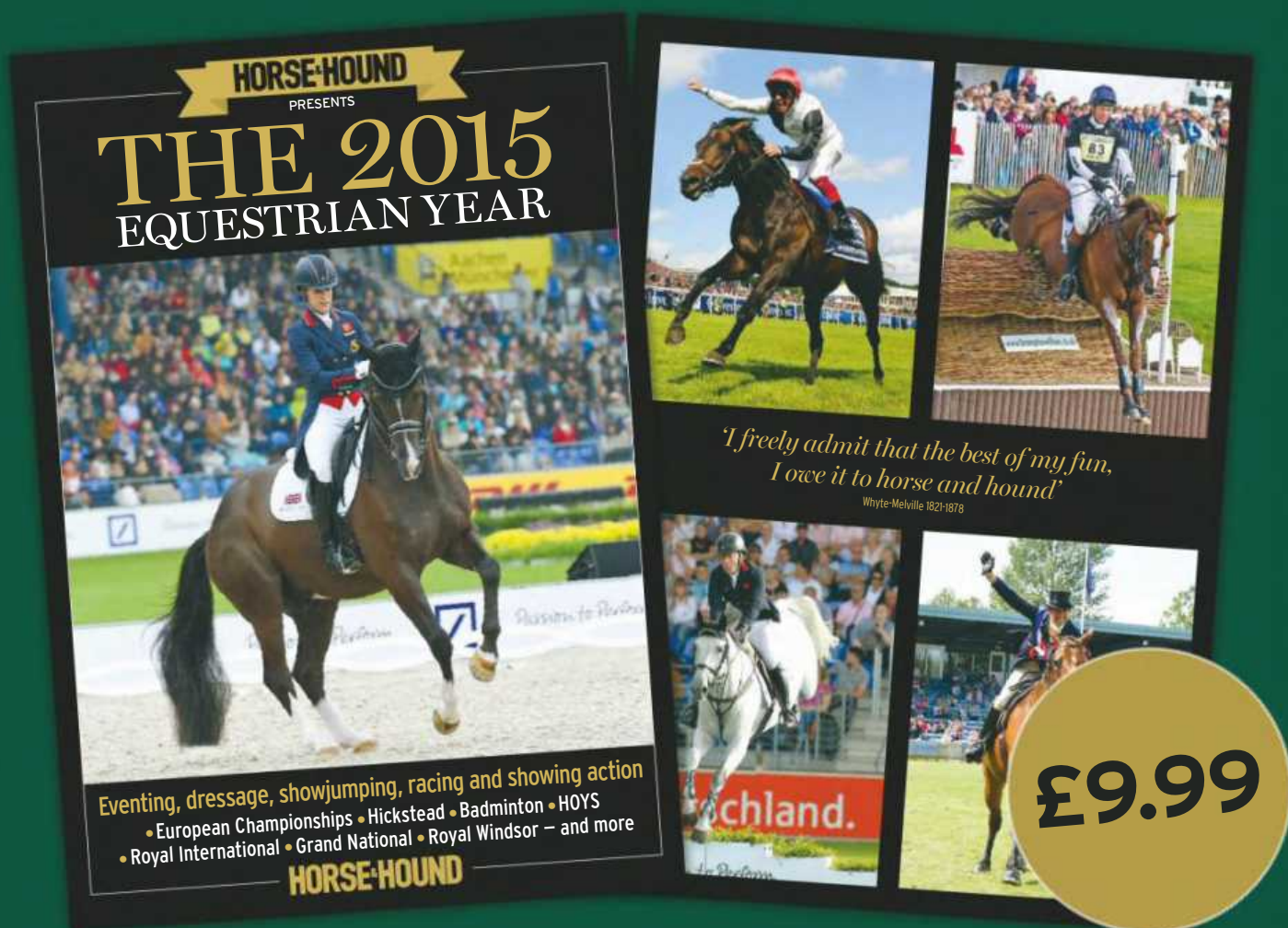
Donnerhall OLD 1981

Lavinia HAN 1983 (by Lanthan)

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RACING

Smad Place, ridden by Wayne Hutchinson, clocks his second win on the trot, finishing 12 lengths clear in the Hennessy Gold Cup



Smad Place eclipses his rivals



Arzal bolts up in Newbury's novice two-mile chase, continuing trainer Harry Whittington's excellent strike-rate

Newbury and Newcastle

26–28 November

By Marcus Armytage

In some ways Newbury's Hennessy meeting felt like a changing of the guard. A battalion of young up-and-coming trainers – Harry Whittington, Ali Stronge, Kerry Lee, Harry Fry, Dan Skelton and Warren Greatrex – all got on the score-sheet, some of them more than once, at the Berkshire racecourse's highest profile meeting. And leading jockey Gavin Sheehan appeared to be auditioning for the title role in *Being AP 2*.

But it was one of the old guard, the long-established trainer Alan King, who won the biggest prize of all. He added his name to the honours board for the greatest handicap chase outside of Aintree – and the longest commercially sponsored sporting event in the world – by sending out Smad Place to win the 59th running of the Hennessy Gold Cup.

The eight-year-old, under an attacking ride from Wayne Hutchinson, put up a bold front-running display of galloping and jumping to come home in splendid isolation. He finished 12 lengths clear of Theatre Guide and secured the prestigious chase for the local Barbury Castle trainer.

It is one thing to make the running, but the absolute key to such a tactic is to capitalise on the jumping, to gain a length at every fence and never lose one. It puts the chasing horses under pressure and into a position where they cannot afford to fluff a fence. By the time he landed over the last ditch, the third last, with another big leap Smad Place had put all his rivals to the sword.

Though the withdrawal of the Gold Cup winner Coneygree earlier in the week, following the recurrence of a bruised foot, had appeared to open up the race, only a handful of horses ever got into contention.

The favourite and top weight

Saphir Du Rheu, who had only completed three of his five starts over fences, was moving well on the outside when he walked through the seventh last. From there on Theatre Guide, First Lieutenant, Fingal Bay and The Giant Bolster were the only dangers – but nothing was ever travelling with quite the gusto of the winner.

King had spent 12 months kicking himself after sending Smad Place to last year's Hennessy without a prep run. He finished a tired fifth and King felt the horse was never right again all season.

He made no such error this time, sending him to Kempton at the start of last month. He won, and grew in confidence for getting his head in front. Having bowled along in front that day, he gave Hutchinson an indication of how he thought the horse should be ridden in the Hennessy. Despite the testing conditions and extra distance, he finished like he could go round again.



Buveur D'Air (right) impresses for Nicky Henderson on his first run over hurdles

ONE TO WATCH

Buveur D'Air

A smart bumper horse in France and then Britain – he was placed in the Aintree bumper – he made an impressive hurdling debut for Nicky Henderson at Newbury on Friday when coming right away from his field to win the bet365 "National Hunt" Maiden Hurdle by 11 lengths.

"I think he'll be good," said an impressed Henderson.



PRE-TRAINING A HENNESSY WINNER

'I ride him like any normal horse'

AFTER summering with his owners Peter and Trish Andrews (pictured) near Ross-on-Wye, Smad Place spent about eight weeks with eventer and the Heythrop's senior joint-master Simon Lawrance near Moreton-in-Marsh, before re-joining Alan King.

"I was so busy watching him being brilliant out in front that I hadn't really taken in what was happening behind him," said Lawrance, who watched the race on television.

"He comes to me and I ride him like any normal horse. I spend a lot of time lungeing him over obstacles. He's not the strongest backed horse in the world so I try and get him to use his back and stomach muscles more.

He does a lot of flatwork over poles too and I aim to develop a good top line. But anything you do to help them know where their feet are is useful. I do a lot of work with the racehorses on their own and I think being out on his own in front suited him."



"It was a ballsy ride," said King. "I wasn't expecting him to be quite that aggressive. It's just as well it worked out. We fancied him big time last year but made the mistake of coming here without a prep run. Getting a run into him at Kempton was the key.

"He's always been classy and we saw that today. I looked back three out and could see they weren't travelling behind him. I thought then he would need to do something silly not to win."

Swindon-born Hutchinson, 34, first came to the Hennessy as a teenager to see Timmy Murphy win in 1999 on Ever Blessed. He has progressed from understudy to Choc Thornton to sharing the first jockey job – now assuming the lead role following Thornton's recent retirement.

It has been a long road, interrupted by recurring knee problems – six arthroscopy operations – so the sweet taste of victory was much appreciated by the jockey.

"That was such a thrill," he said. "He set out on the second circuit with his ears pricked and

I was able to fill him up all the way down the back.

"He kept popping away and all I had to do was wait for horses to push me along up the home straight. He was relentless. He was fantastic.

"Last season he was quite keen in behind then hit a flat spot before running on. I let him roll along at Kempton and he really did enjoy himself. I wanted to do the same today



Identity Thief (left) lands Newcastle's Grade One Fighting Fifth hurdle



'Very precocious': juvenile hurdler Kasakh Noir storms home by 19 lengths

but I don't think the boss thought I was going to be quite as positive as I planned to be."

Smad Place will now be aimed at the Cheltenham Gold Cup – he has been placed in two World Hurdles and the RSA Chase. However, the Grand National is not an option as his owners, Peter and Trish Andrews, are not keen on the race.

The best of the rest

WITHOUT the mighty Big Buck's around, the World Hurdle looks more open these days and Colin Tizzard's Thistlecrack is one for the long list now – after winning the bet365 Long Distance Hurdle at Newbury by six lengths from Deputy Dan.

"He's grown into a lovely big strong horse," purred the trainer afterwards. "I honestly believed he might need the run but might be classy enough to win. He jumped, he travelled and I'm sure he'll improve massive amounts for that. We thought we'd give him a couple of runs over hurdles to see if he was good enough for the World Hurdle and, on this, he is."

Harry Whittington's Arzal bolted up in the bet365.com Novices' Handicap Chase over two miles.

"We were discussing whether we should come here or go to Plumpton on Monday but it was a no-brainer," said the trainer, who used to run a satellite yard for Nicky Henderson.

He has sent out 11 winners from 22 runners since the beginning of September.

Ali Stronge's best horse, Royal Guardsman, displayed one of the bravest performances of Hennessy day. The gelding gamely held on to beat Ibis Du Rheu in the bet365 Handicap Hurdle, giving Gavin Sheehan his fifth winner of the meeting.

"He loves Newbury, he loves the ground and we had the jockey in form," said the Lambourn-based trainer. "He showed how tough he was today. He has a high cruising speed but doesn't quicken and on better ground it sometimes looks like he doesn't battle

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Thistlecrack will be aimed at the World Hurdle after his long-distance win

because the other horses quicken past him."

Dan Skelton is beginning to assemble something of a solid team for Cheltenham in March if recent results, and particularly those at Newbury on Friday, are anything to judge by.

Kasakh Noir, who carried the familiar Racing Demon and Somersby colours of Tim Radford, looked like one of the smartest juvenile hurdlers seen out so far this season. His stable companion Three Musketeers built on a promising chasing debut at Huntingdon to win the Fuller's London Pride Novices' Chase.

They were finishing tired in the Q Associates Juvenile Hurdle with the very notable exception of Kasakh Noir, who had two runs on the Flat in France before being bought earlier this autumn. He came home on the bridle for Harry Skelton to beat The Coffee Hunter by 19 lengths.

"He's been very precocious at home," said Dan. "I thought he'd go one of two ways; he'd either be really good or he'd be very gassy and fall in a heap two out. Obviously he will get quotes for the big races but he's good enough for that route. He could go to Kempton the day after Boxing Day and we might look at the Adonis."

Three Musketeers, a Flemensfirth gelding, was quite a smart novice hurdler last season, winning a couple before finishing third at Aintree in a Grade One. Skelton felt he was mentally unprepared for the Festival last year but pointed

out you cannot go on protecting them forever and that it will be his target this season.

"When he went to Huntingdon he hadn't missed a day and when he blew up turning in I was disappointed in myself. But it helped today to come here without a penalty and he'd come on a lot. Sometimes you get smiled upon when you make errors. I wish now I'd given Value At Risk [a second fence faller] a run before bringing him here on Thursday," he said.

There was a connection between Three Musketeers and Missed Approach, Warren Greatrex's winner of the Pertemps Network Handicap Hurdle: Three Musketeers beat Missed Approach in a hurdle at Wetherby last season.

ROCK ON RUBY RETIRED

Fry's star suffers injury

THE 2012 Champion Hurdle winner Rock On Ruby was retired at the age of 10 after sustaining a tendon injury when winning the Coral Hurdle at Ascot last week (21 November).

The popular hurdler effectively launched the career of Harry Fry, who was running a satellite yard for Paul Nicholls when he won the Champion Hurdle. Fry started training in his own right the next season and the rest is beginning to look like history.



Royal Guardsman wins the Bet365 handicap hurdle by a head

"I got a bit greedy," conceded Greatrex. "He won three out of four. After he won at Ffos Las I sent him to Wetherby and it was too quick. I remember it as I had eight runners, five of them fancied, and no winners."

He added: "We'll have to be looking at the final now. He's still relatively young at five and is one of those horses that

could get better and better. He doesn't do much at home but comes alive on the racecourse."

Greatrex looks to have a nice chasing prospect in the Ray Anderson Green-owned Aloomono, who made it three wins from his last three starts in the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Memorial Handicap Chase on Saturday. **H&H**

BLOODSTOCK

Kayf Tara does a double

Identity Thief and Thistlecrack give leading sire Kayf Tara two wins in one day, reports **Sue Montgomery**

SATURDAY brought a quick-fire prestige double for Britain's leading jump sire Kayf Tara as two of his sons took the afternoon's feature hurdle prizes. First up was Identity Thief in the Grade One Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle, followed by Thistlecrack in the Grade Two Long Distance Hurdle at Newbury 20 minutes later.

Identity Thief was Kayf Tara's fifth individual Grade One winner, and brought the Gloucestershire-based stallion's top level race tally to seven, after victories from Planet Of Sound (at Punchestown in 2010), two each from Special Tiara (at Aintree in 2013 and Sandown in April) and Lieutenant Colonel (at Fairyhouse and Punchestown last year), and from Thistlecrack at Aintree in April.

Among British-based jump sires, 21-year-old Kayf Tara – resident at Overbury Stud – is now equal-best at Grade One level, having matched High Line's score (Bobsline 2, Muse 2, Strathline, High Knowl and High Plains) between 1985 and 1993.

Their numbers do not come close to those posted by stallions

based in Ireland, who have much greater opportunities in terms of the quantity and quality of their books. The reigning champion King's Theatre, for instance, has 28 Grade One wins from 16 individual horses.

But as his worth became apparent, Kayf Tara became a rare enough British stallion to attract sizeable numbers of mares from Ireland and Identity Thief, bred by Cathal Ennis, was the result of such patronage. The five-year-old is the best of the two winners from as many runners out of Miss Arteea, an unraced daughter of Flemensfirth from the good family that has produced such as Merry Masquerade, Merry People, Over The Bar and Merry King.

Previously, Miss Arteea had visited Presenting and Oscar, and subsequently went to King's Theatre (twice), Oscar again and Milan three times, all bar her first mate being sons of Sadler's Wells. Ennis, of Quill Farm in Co Westmeath, sold Identity Thief as a foal for €15,000 (£10,500); his mare's latest produce, a Milan colt, made €52,000 (£36,500) last month. **H&H**



Leading jump sire Kayf Tara now has five progeny who have won Grade Ones, after Identity Thief landed the Fighting Fifth hurdle



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BLACK FOREST CLUB

Moorcroft sets ball rolling

Byron Moorcroft kicks off the title challenge with a double at Black Forest Lodge (29 November), where a missed breakfast gives Premier Portrait an appetite for battle in the members'. Donna Harris reports

A double for jockey Byron Moorcroft ignited the title challenges as the new season came under orders in Devon.

The 27-year-old, who works for David Brace and Jonathan Tudor and lives near Newport, got off the mark in the restricted on Doctor Braveheart, the judge having to split him from runner-up Templestatefloresco ridden by Will Biddick.

"I didn't think it was his ground, but Byron followed my instructions to the letter," said David of his home-bred victor.

Northgeorge won for Jonathan Tudor in the open maiden, with Will Biddick, this time aboard Wotzizname, finding himself second again.

"Both horses are progressive types and they should both have a very exciting future," said Byron.

Former pony rider Gus Levinson took the club members' race on Premier Portrait after being locked in battle over the last with favourites Jamie Thomas on Jepeck.

"We are speechless," beamed Alexia Robinson, who co-owns Premier Portrait with her partner – Gus's father – Charles.

"We only have two pointers and we do lots of hunting to keep them fresh. He was stabled at the kennels near Charlton Horethorne last night and was so excited to hear the hounds this morning. In fact, he didn't eat his breakfast and we nearly didn't run him."

Doctor Braveheart provides Byron Moorcroft with the first of his two winners, in the restricted



The feature race was the mixed open. Catspan, ridden by Hannah Lewis, set the pace until the second circuit, when Full Throttle, Bradley Brook and The Wealerdealer took over three out. The latter, under trainer/jockey Ian Chanin, forged home to take the race by two-and-a-half lengths.

"It wasn't the strongest of races and he would probably prefer better ground," said Rackenford-based Ian, who trains the horse for his fiancée, Becky Barnett.

"We may run him in a hunter chase somewhere like Ludlow," "He became sour under Rules,

but I think he's better suited to smaller yards and we like to turn ours out every day," added Becky, who is a farrier.

Hawker swoops

THE open maiden race for four- and five-year-olds opened the card and Red Red Rover and Lee Drowne set off at a strong pace. However, a patient ride by Robert Hawker on Mystery Edition paid dividends when they took up the running two fences from home to win by 2 1/4 lengths.

Mystery Edition is trained by Neil Harris for owner Dave Luff from Burnham-on-Sea.

"We always thought he would win a race; he's so much stronger this year," said Neil. "This win is for Dave, who couldn't make it today as his mother has been taken ill."

The intermediate went to the Cotswolds Chancers Partnership's Argentato, trained by Claire Hart and ridden by 17-year-old jockey Jordan Nailor.

"There are 10 of us in the syndicate and I feel emotional and so lucky to be involved," said syndicate member "the AGA man" David Simpson, who works for the cast iron cooker company.

TALKING POINT

Spotted on the track

OLYMPIC cyclist Victoria Pendleton's pointing debut gave the Black Forest Lodge meeting a buzz. She rode the Alan Hill-trained Minella Theatre in the club members' race but pulled up two from home.

"The agenda was for me to get around safely by doing our own thing," said Victoria. "Hopefully we will have Sedgemoor Express and According To Sarah out in a couple of weeks."

Ed Barrett, who sustained spinal injuries in a fall at Upcott Cross last season, was watching the West Country action from a four-wheel drive.

And he was not just an impartial observer.

"I'm here to watch my horse Kisha Lad, who is trained by Kayley Woollacott and ridden by Jamie Thomas," said Ed, who is living at the Injured Jockeys Fund's Oaksey House while undergoing physio. "I've had a lot of people knocking on the window to say hello."



Edited by
Aimi Clark

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BLACK FOREST LODGE, COTTENHAM



Joe Hill and Consigliere justify their odds-on favouritism with a speedy victory in the men's open

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY UNITED HUNTS CLUB

Consigliere avoids dispute

TRAINER Alan Hill is no stranger to sending out winners at **Cottenham**, East Anglia, and his son Joe rode the odds-on favourite Consigliere to a cosy victory in the men's open in the fastest time of the day, writes *Will Hickman* (29 November).

"He's class isn't he?" said Alan's wife, National Hunt trainer Lawney. "Every time they came to him he jumped them into trouble."

"He won't be running in the Foxhunters this year, we'd rather keep bringing him out every three weeks and pick up races like this."

Sam Davies-Thomas put down an early marker for the

jockeys' championship when riding winners for Tommy and Kelly Morgan.

Lough Inch made all the running in the opening 2m4f Point-to-Point Owners' and Riders' association (PPORA) Club members' conditions race, taking his tally to eight wins from 10 point-to-point starts.

"This is one of the best I've ridden," said Sam, whose second success aboard Tulsa came in the Subaru restricted.

"He was a huge baby but he's improved. They started racing a long way out and I knew Sin Bin wouldn't go on once it hit the front."

Daidaidai triumphed under owner Wayne Russell in the last.

"That was a surprise," admitted trainer Suzie Russell. "He's done loads of hunting and jumps like a stag, I knew that would get him round today."

Wayne said of the five-year-old: "We do things very agriculturally in Brightling; they go hunting and jump fences. My children ride them and they're happy horses, it makes training easy. If you put a five-bar gate out there Dai would jump it."

Eleven-year-old gelding Sagalyrique won the ladies' open for the fourth year in a row.

"He's best fresh but he's not easy to get fit. We quickened for the second circuit and two out we quickened again," said jockey Angela Rucker. **H&H**

COMMENT

Darren Edwards



A new season blows in

THE realisation that the new season is upon us hit me two weeks ago when Storm Barney blew through. I'd already taken the first phone call: "I have an unraced five-year-old for you to school... it's never been off the farm" — but it was the arrival of "pointing weather" that did it.

The closed season for many involves turning towards other interests, but not for the key stakeholders running our sport.

A number of important race-planning changes, well publicised last season, have now been implemented. The intricacies associated with making rule changes caused a frustrating delay in the release of *The Planner*, but change is necessary to bolster the decline in numbers. So much time and effort has gone into the consultation, and therefore the Point-to-Point Authority (PPA), Race Planning Committee, Point-to-Point Owners and Riders Association, British Horseracing Authority etcetera should be applauded. Ultimately, if the changes prove unsuccessful, they can be reversed.

I attended the PPA press day in October, used to promote all things new in the sport and to give something back to the sponsors, without whom it could not function. Our sport is blessed with loyal supporters, who must be recognised for their input year round.

Fingers crossed for an enjoyable season. I hope that by the time you read this I will have recovered from my Black Forest Lodge exertions — I'll definitely strip fitter for the blowout. **H&H**

ONE TO WATCH

Lilbitluso

"WE had thousands on him — I was so confident that I bought a Range Rover yesterday and said I'll be back tomorrow to pay for it," said trainer Joe O'Shea after Lilbitluso (right) stormed clear ounder Gillon Crow to score by a distance in the open maiden.

"The horse is a machine and we backed him like he's a machine. He's been beating Cottage Oak and Executive Benefit at home. We backed him from 6/1 into 6/4."

The seven-year-old will be targeted at the Subaru restricted series this season.





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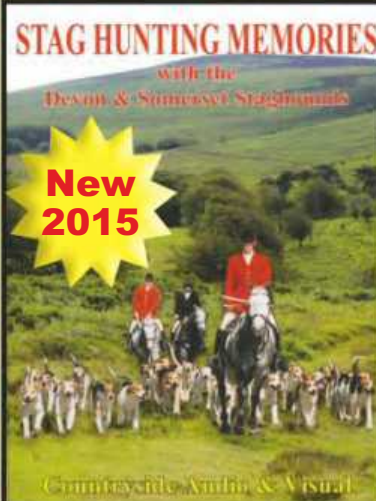
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Description: Irish Draught x Dutch. Has excellent paces & is a comfortable & easy ride. He is quiet & straight forward to handle. He has competed in dressage up to medium level & enjoys hacking & jumping. 00353 868 538 366

rebeccapatterson44@eircom.net



Superb Hunter/All-rounder

Height: 17.2hh Age: 11yo

Price: £6,000

Description: A true gentleman, happily turning his hand to all disciplines & is very straight forward to ride. He loves his hunting and is very well-mannered on the field. Good to catch, shoe, dentist, clip, load etc. Genuine reason for sale, open to vetting!

07505 600 551 dawnlumb@freeuk.com



ISH Gelding

Height: 17.1hh
Age: 9yo
Price: £5,500

Description: Irish Sports horse gelding North Sound. Sire: Grange Bouncer (RID) Dam: Lilly Power (ISH) Genuinely cannot fault this gentleman. Beautifully schooled on the flat and has competed very successfully in Show and Working Hunter Classes in Ireland.
07730 037413
mstubs17@gmail.com

**Quality hunter/allrounder**

Height: 17.2hh Age: 6 years Price: £4,750
Description: Registered Irish Draught, grey gelding, 9.5 inch bone by Rockrimmon Silver Diamond, up to weight, fantastic, laid back temperament. Scopey jump. Hunted and XC. Currently ridden by 5'2" middle aged lady. Good box, shoe, catch, clip, traffic. Snaffle mouth. **07711293038 or 07811551284**
lori@mcindoe3010.freereserve.co.uk

**Good Allrounder / Jumper**

Height: 16.2hh Age: 12yo Price: £3,000

Location: East Anglia

Description: Coloured Gelding. Loves jumping, good hunter, has team chased, has a mega jump, needs a confident rider, 110% in traffic, Teeth, back, flu/tetanus all up to date. Fit & ready to go. Open to vetting. **07971 699 567 / 01733 240 265 breken.farms@farmline.com**



**15h 3ins -
16h 2ins**

Stunning mare

Height: 16hh Age: 4 yr old
Price: £3,250

Description: Fantastic breeding, she is quiet to handle and hack alone/company, done fun rides, successfully shown in hand. Spirit has all her basic schooling and popping small fences now ready to go on. She will make a fantastic competition horse with her lovely movement and laid back nature and always snaffle mouthed a very sweet mare.
gemma.davies1983@googlemail.com

**Billy Congo Super Careful & Scopey**

Height: 16hh Age: 6yo Price: £8,000

Description: R SALE, chestnut gelding. Super breeding by Billy Congo out of a TB mare. Been slowly produced by an amateur who now sadly has no time for him due to family commitments. Lovely kind nature. Good mover & super scopey jump. Would suit pure SJ as careful but has competed in a few BE events. A real fun, easy horse to have around that is looking for someone to give a lot of pleasure to. **07703 532 324 cazbaz03@aol.com**

**Exceptional 2014 filly**

Price: £3000, any genuine offers will be considered.
Description: Bred for the top sport by Gustavii Stud, this is a genuine future talent. Comes from the very sought after bloodlines of Feinschnitt 1, Ramiro Z, Lars Irco G, Irco Mena and Irco Marco. This is a very promising filly, with a sweet temperament, and from a family of genuine international competition horses with numerous 160 jumpers. See us on www.gustaviistud.com or our Facebook page Irco Mena Ltd.
07535 900976 or +33(0)637 62 90 73
ann@gustavii.com

**Flashy chestnut gelding reg Irish Sport**

Height: 16.1hh Age: Rising 5 yrs Price: £3,000

Description: Super to ride for age, nice easy snaffle mouth. Done a little bit in Ireland and ready to crack on now. Lots potential in any sphere, super jump and paces. A really nice type with a bit of bone but still quality enough for competition or superb hunter as not strong to ride. No vices. **07778414739 (No texts please)**

**Potential Hunter / Allrounder**

Height: 16.1hh Age: 4.5yo Price: £2,600

Description: is being sold as a project. Needs an experienced home with someone who has the time & knowledge to bring him to his full potential. Vaccs, worming, teeth & back all up to date. Good to load & with farrier, barefoot at minute. Haven't clipped him so unsure on this. I love this boy & it's very hard to say goodbye so please no time wasters. Open to sensible offers.
07903 910 474
lyndsay@stortfordtiling.co.uk

**Just over from Ireland**

Height: 16hh

Price: £5,000

Description: ISH. by Breedas Mountain. Straight moving. Excellent paces and doing everything he should. Great opportunity to produce for straight dressage/eventing/showing. Unblemished Unspoilt. Superb competition prospect to produce for 2016!
07878673624

**Ramiro B Closely Related To Fenya's Elegance**

Height: 16.1hh Age: 3yo Price: POA

Description: Ramiro B Gelding Dam is a 1/2 sister to the dam of Fenya's Elegance Horse has nothing done only some loose schooling and some basic handling etc. Not backed, will make 16.2hh.
07786 072 035 mcadam.conaill@gmail.com

**Bombproof Hunter / Allrounder Gelding**

Height: 16.1hh Age: 5yo Price: £3,200

Description: This is a beautiful horse with a super temperament. He has hunted twice with the north Mayo harriers, hacked on the beach & through forestry, schooled XC & hacks on the road alone or in company. He is really quiet & has been ridden around the yard by a 5 year old boy. He is clean limbed with no vices, blemishes or bad habits.
00353872 165 811 vincenthowley@hotmail.co.uk

**PROVEN EVENT MARE**

Height: 16.2hh Age: 13yo Price: £3,450

Description: Smart Dark Bay Mare by Animo. Warmblood x ISH. Alimony (Ali) has evented to Novice 30FP and won 2 BE100s. Bold, brave, adores XC & never stops. Snaffle mouthed but sharp, not a novice ride. Needs competent & experienced home. Would suit ambitious event rider looking to be competitive quickly. Easy to catch, shoe, clip. No vices, lovely temperament, hacks & travels alone. More online.
07979 155 010
lottie.sutcliffe@hantsfire.gov.uk

**Talented dressage / allrounder**

Age: 10 yr old Price: £6000 ono Location: N Yorkshire

Description: Athletic, stunning and beautiful 10yr old gelding. Well known Irish breeding, by Limbo hill, G Sire Clover hill and King of Diamonds Lines. A dream to ride on the flat, outstanding movement, well established with countless wins at novice dressage, winter champion, WHs many championships. Has good record BE, many placings and qualified RFs. Hacks out alone, in company, a kind chap to do with in all respects. Same home 7 yrs. this is a very very sad sale genuine reason. To 5* home only. Home priority. **07951740998**





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The first point of contact for overseas clients seeking information on sourcing Irish horses and ponies.



Irish Hunter / All rounder

Height: 16.1hh **Age:** 5yo **Price:** £10,000

Description: Gelding, proper Irish horse who jumps for fun. Although 5 acts like an 8 y/o. Hunted a season with the Bree in Wexford. Started Eventing this Autumn Finished 3rd first EI 100 (a field of 36). Jumping double clears @ 1.10 XC machine be it hunting or eventing he is a joy to ride. Genuine nice person & real All-rounder. Fit with clean Vets Cert. Up to weight but not plain.

00353 872 555 116 gleahy@leahyproperty.ie

14h 3ins -
15h 2ins

Quality ISH

Height: 15.2hh

Age: 8yo

Price: £3,000

Description:

Black gelding by Felin De Bneville GS Papillon Rouge, Dam: Knave of Hearts GGS King of Diamonds, done all unaffiliated SJ, Dress, XC ready to affiliate. University commitments force sale. **07710 193 422** victoriapbc@btconnect.com



Stunning homebred 7 year old

Height: 16hh **Age:** 7 year old **Price:** £6500 ono

Location: Retford Nottinghamshire

Description: Blue and white coloured cob gelding by CHAPS graded stallion Lucky Diamond. Success in the show ring lightly shown this year qualifying for RIHS in the coloured class, he has also been shown as a maxi cob with success. Super jump bold over both SJ and XC fences jumping 1m courses nicely. Amazing paces, correct conformation, kind and willing to please. Lots of presence, good to hack, catch, load, shoe and clip etc. Great allrounder would hunt. Huge future ahead of him. **07738338125**



Stunning All-rounder

Height: 15.2hh **Age:** 14yo **Price:** £5,000

Description: Foxy is a 15.2, Danish Warmblood, mostly done show jumping but is excellent at dressage & cross country. Competed a lot at unaffiliated level, jumping 80-90cm. Needs experienced owner & rider.

07825 701 833

s.izmestieva@gmail.com

Stunning Irish Liver Chestnut Gelding

Height: 16.1hh **Age:** 11yo

Price: £4,000

Description: Good all rounder, not a novice ride. Rides out alone or in co. Very quiet in menage, absolutely loves his jumping. Excellent stable manners.

Good to shoe, box & clip. Vaccs, worming & dentistry up to date. Please no time wasters - 5 * home only. Very sad sale as too strong for disabled owner. **07767 053 199 / 07985 604 229** embrazier@btinternet.com



Irish Mare

Height: 15.3hh **Age:** 7yo

Price: £4,800

Description: Hunted as Master's horse last 2 Seasons - No falls, refusals or lost shoes. Tough, compact little mare, never sick or sorry. Fit and ready to go, priced to sell as rider out for rest of Season.

07732 539 192 nicolarowsell@yahoo.co.uk



CLOUDINGS Point-2Pointer

Height: 16 & 1/2hh **Age:** 6yo **Price:** £3,500

Description: Well made TB Bay mare by Cloudings from prolific winning NH family. A mare with a snaffle mouth & wonderful manners in & out of the box. Has a great jump in her. Clean & sound in every way. Guaranteed untried & thought a bright prospect for the coming season. Very genuine reason for sale as owner overstocked.

01886 884 143 sph.oliver@btinternet.com

Competitive Allrounder

Height: 16.2hh **Age:** 9yo

Price: £8500

Location: Bicester

Description: ISH gelding by Golden Trump. Snaffle mouth, smart & accurate on the flat, competed up to Fox & BE Novice. Bold & careful cross country. Suit keen competitive amateur for BD, BS, BE or Hunting. **07717 570 490**



Stunning 7 year old

Height: 15.3hh

Age: 7 year old

Price: £5,500

Description: Talented, Smart and wonderful to do. Great BE/BS potential! Beautiful uphill paces. Bold, brave jumper with so much scope! Successfully competing at 1m show jumping and x country, always placed and totally honest. **07521948014** sarahbroad3@outlook.com



Teenagers / Small Adults Allrounder

Height: 15hh **Age:** 9yo **Price:** £3950 ono inc tack and rugs

Location: N Yorks

Description: Talented 9yo Irish bred blue and white coloured. Smart, compact mare, works sweetly on the flat with rhythmic straight paces, competed local dressage. She loves to jump, scopey and careful, happily popping 1.05m. Will easily BS. Very genuine XC. Done all PC activities inc PC camp. Currently hunting with a teenager and SJ. Good to hack out, snaffle mouthed. Genuine reason for sale of fantastic mare who has so much to give. **07951740998 (No txts please)**

Great Allrounder / Ex-Team Chase

Height: 16hh **Age:** 6yo

Price: £1,200 offers welcome

Description: Black 16yo TB ex-racer. Hunted/drag hunted, team-chased, hunter trials, fun rides. Basic flat work knowledge. Great in traffic, hacking alone/co., shoe, box. Change in circumstances - sad sale. **07879 660 444** annaljones17@gmail.com



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Coloured Mare

Height: 15hh **Age:** 4yo **Price:** £600

Description: Warmblood x traditional coloured cob, see pics for breeding. Broken in & turned away. Easy to do, good with farrier. Make super all rounder, would hunt all day. Only for sale due to lack of time. Sold from the field. Has sarcoid. **07979 308 392** kelly.sargent@btinternet.com

IRISH SPORT HORSE STUDBOOK

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studbook rankings
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www.irishhorsegateway.ie**Exceptional filly
by 'Kings Cornet'
(Cornet Obolensky)
Dam by 'Chacoa'****Age:** 4 year old**Price:** EPOA

Description: Dams full brother 'Willows Peeping Pocket' winner of prestigious Horse Sport Ireland Eventing series 2015. He sold recently at Ireland's 'Go for Gold' sale in Goresbridge €26,000. Grand dam is full sister to 3* advanced eventer 'Tomgar Rembrandt'. This filly has balance, movement & athleticism. See more on www.horseandhound.co.uk classifieds. Transport from Ireland can be arranged.

+353877794975 (Anne Coyne)**14h 2ins
& under****Project Show Pony
/ All Rnd****Height:** 12.2hh **Age:** 6yo**Price:** £650**Description:** British

Riding Pony mare. Perfect pony to experienced home to further her education.

Shows potential as lead rein / show pony but has also popped a fence & the odd log out hacking.

07933 309 880 dajoe@hotmail.co.uk**Genuine Ladies Hunter****Height:** 15.2hh **Age:** 12yo **Price:** £4,000

Description: Impeccable field & stable manners. Bought as an eight year from hunting field to reschool for Dressage & Small Hunters with success; a 'ready made' mare, ideal for the busy lady. Easy to shoe, clip, load, hack etc., used to being tacked/untacked in the close confines of a 401 single-handed at shows & meets. Not 'marish' or bothered by hounds, a good doer who knows her job. **00353 876 304 541 grainne12@gmail.com**

**Adorable Talented
Tobiano****Height:** 14.2hh**Age:** 6yo**Price:** £2,950

Description: Traditional show cob. Superb confirmation/paces. Responsive, snaffle ride. Good flat work (ready for dressage). Fantastic jump (wins or placed every outing, excellent hack/alone/company/ traffic/ X.C Sweetest nature. Loving, knowledgeable, home and rider.

07736803987**Multi - Talented****Height:** 15hh**Age:** 5yo**Description:**

Connemara Gelding. Consistently won and placed BS Club 90 and 1m scope to BS and BE Won Dress WHP Derbies Bold and sensible XC Active paces. Videos Ros Kempe

07502540 404 roskempe@uwclub.net**Super Smart Ladies
Hunter****Height:** 15.2hh **Age:** 7yo**Price:** £8,500**Description:** By

Bandmaster/Clover Hill lines. Safe, sensible/Ideal for any family member! Hunted 2 seasons, now re schooled with 2016 event season in mind. Bold careful & flashy! No quirks or sharpness! **ginnyhoweeventing@gmail.com 07766 746 778 www.ginnyhowe-eventing.co.uk**

**FRANK
(Kiltartan
Liberty)****Height:** 15.1hh **Age:** 9yo**Price:** £5,000

Description: Elegant, lovely moving gelding by Tulira Robuck. Gentleman on the ground, always sound, clean limbed, experienced, mannerly, careful hunter. Frank has hedge hopped & gate shut. Fit & ready to go.

07899 925 776 dcm.lockwood@meod.net**Fabulous
Class 1
Connemara****Age:** 3 year old**Price:** EPOA

Description: Fully registered connemara filly by champion show jumping stallion Gwennic de Goariva, Bunty has great show presence and has won at county level. Good to catch, box, groom, etc. Great future.

01822870366**juliammartin@btinternet.com****Ultimate JA Schoolmistress****Height:** 147cms **Age:** 16yo **Price:** £8,250 ONO

Description: This much loved snaffle mouthed mare is a truly exceptional, honest & genuine pony. Never stops & naturally quick, always in the ribbons whether it's BS (winnings over £3000 - over £500 this year) to competing in PC teams inc dressage, hunt relays, XC. Jumps hedges, ditches etc. Recently won a GP at arena UK. Currently competing mtr 10 tracks. 100% in all ways. Very sadly outgrown.

07595 622 274 toni.potts@aol.co.uk**SUPER
HUNTER****Height:** 15.2hh**Age:** 7yo**Price:** £7,000

Description: MW ID X gelding, blue & white. Super hunter, hunted 3 seasons in Ireland with Galway Blazers, hunting now with Heythrop. Jumps any country, stands quietly. Lovely temperament, 100% in all ways

07786 387004**larastrutt@msn.com**

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**Hunting/Pony Club
Pony****Height:** 13hh **Age:** Rising 6yrs **Price:** £2,000

Description: Registered WPBR skewbald mare. She is safe and mannered out hunting, stands at the meet, goes when asked and, most importantly, stops when asked. Jumps everything, and is safe, steady and waits her turn. Never fizzy or stressy. Pony clubbed regularly, SJ, and has schooled XC. Hacks out safely alone/company. 100% to catch, box, farrier, stable and traffic. A mannered, straightforward pony, mature and level headed way beyond her years. No vices, allergies or health issues. We can help with transport. **01873 890298 (Mons)**



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Two Nice Ponies

Height: 11.2hh **Age:** 6yo **Price:** £600 each
Description: Ready to be taken on to the next stage of training. They've been with us for 2 years & have taken our children from lead rein to hacking confidently across country. Both ponies have been shown to jump & move nicely & we are certain that they would love hunting. Need someone who can continue their training. Price reflects experience not capability. **07850 257 427**
lara@grangepastures.co.uk

Fantastic All-rounder!

Height: 14hh **Age:** 8yo
Price: £2,000 tack / wardrobe negotiable
Description: Haflinger mare. Competed at dressage scoring mid 60's. Loves to jump XC & SJ! Successful in showing. Great to hack nothing fazes her. Great in all ways! Not Marish. Not a novice ride. **07816 251 528**
shelleyyoung2009@hotmail.co.uk



New Forest Gelding

Height: 14.2hh **Age:** 9yo
Price: £2,500
Description: Ronnie is a reg NF. Good to catch, shoe, in traffic & around dogs. Vaccs & worming up to date. Hacks alone or in co., lives out all year & never sick or sorry. Snaffle mouthed at all times, loves attention & needs a job. Price incl. made to measure saddle, bridle & rugs. No dealers or time wasters.
07976 879 984 billhaley92@yahoo.co.uk



Cracking Hunting/Allrounder Connemara X Gelding

Height: 14.2hh **Age:** 8yo **Price:** £4,000
Description: Mojo is a real leg in each corner type with a clean & careful jump, straightforward over xc/fillers/hunt fences/ditches. Hacks alone/in co., good in traffic & open spaces, out hunting with the Fernie in a snaffle, well hunted by young boy in Ireland. Brave & careful over sj, currently jumping courses of 80cms with scope to go higher. Working in a consistent outline on the flat, straight moving, blemish free. Good to clip/shoe/travels & loads in lorry/trailer. V quiet ride but not total novice ride. Lots more pics & videos avail. **07746 739 486** bexx_91@hotmail.com

ABSOLUTELY GOLDEN GELDING

Height: 14.2hh **Age:** 14yo
Price: £4,500 ONO
Description: Welsh Sec D liver chestnut gelding, flaxen mane & tail. Amazing kind genuine & safe - flawless temperament no vices. SJ, XC, WHP, Prelim DR, always wins rosettes. 100% hack alone/in co.
07515 161 705 geo.c@btinternet.com



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Show Jumping Pony!

Height: 13.2hh **Age:** 5yo
Price: £4,000
Description: New Forest x 2010 mare. Sadly outgrown. Good to hack, clip, shoe, etc. No vices, lives in or out. A real dream to own! No time wasters. Full wardrobe incl., Doesn't come with saddle.
07917195 063 char.munns@hotmail.com



Amazing, Fun PC / RC Pony

Height: 14hh **Age:** 7yo
Price: £3,250 ONO
Description: Super Conni X, mare. Won & placed SJ & ODE up to 70 & 80CM scope to go further with the right rider to continue her education, so not for novice. Good to hack, clip, catch, load, shoe etc. **07854 067 585**
pigletpost@hotmail.co.uk



Dogs

DOG FLYBALL BOX

Price: £50 +£10 P&P
 Handmade in solid oak finish, finished with five coats of yacht varnish, non-slip push pads, brass hinges and screws. Brilliant for your dog at Christmas. **01745336366** or **07917318071**



Super NF Pony

Height: 14hh **Age:** 10yo
Price: £5,000
Description: Strawberry roan gelding, lots of scope, will cross any country, exceptional manners, has show jumped, dressage & excellent XC, lives out all yr round, comes with Masters reference, along with refs from many subscribers. Price incl. excellent tack & 2 New Zealand's. **07710 193 422** victoriapbc@btconnect.com



Quality Allround Sport Pony

Height: 148cm **Age:** 6yo
Price: £5,500
Description: This attractive bay gelding has it all! rhythmic, active paces & a fun loving jumper, he has 76 SJ! points. This pony has a loving personality in and out of the stable, great in all the usual ways. shoe, box clip etc. **07769 728642** nikicook40@yahoo.co.uk



Top quality 5th generation pedigree Standard Poodle puppies

Price: £POA
Description: Champions in both lines. Mixture of blue and black dogs. Available January.
07876138635
damsonmagickennels@gmail.com



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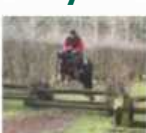
Fun allrounder

Height: 13.1hh **Age:** 6yo
Price: £1,500
Description: Gypsy is a pretty skewbald mare. A well schooled ride on the flat & pops a course sweetly, been XC schooled proving very safe & genuine. Lovely kind temperament, loves to please. Fun allrounder for all PC/RC activities. Please visit my FB page for videos: kellys ponies.
07956 145 673 spneedham@aol.co.uk



Lennie 14hh 8yr fun chap

Height: 14hh **Age:** 8yo
Price: £2,800
Description: Lennie is a fantastic fun chap, done fun rides, beach rides, cross country & show jumping. A forward ride but no buck or spook. Good to catch, shoe, load and in traffic. Turn out with anyone.
07734 569 118 beckygoodenough@aol.com



Youngstock

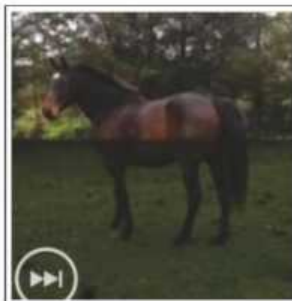
Filly foal

Height: Will make 14hh or more approx
Age: 5 months
Price: £495
Location: Louth, Lincs
Description: Dark grey, with white legs and blaze. Section D Welsh X Cob. Quiet temperament, handles well and good to catch. Will make good riding or drive pony. Living out at the moment. Can keep here until Xmas, and can deliver within 25 mile radius.
07989655668

IRISH SPORT HORSE STUDBOOK

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www.irishhorsegateway.ie**3 year old gelding****Height:** 15.3hh **Price:** €3 200**Description:** Homebred by Irish eventing sire Gallant Cavalier dam by Triggerero TB Straight & correct in every way, good looking with a real step. Quiet to shoe & load. Halter-lead, never been tried with poles A real working hunter/eventing prospect, half-brother Cruising Speed (Youtube) won in RDS 30 mins from Ireland West Airport Knock

00353 868 788 909 aibhistinocoimin@hotmail.com

**Mannerly - safe & sane skewbald gelding****Height:** 14.3hh **Age:** 6 yrs old **Price:** £4,500**Description:** Skewbald gelding. The sweetest character, easy to handle both on the ground & under saddle. Has hunted proving safe and sensible, good to box, shoe & clip, travels well. Good in traffic & hacks well in company, a hard, he is an honest, genuine pony who is looking for a special home. He is a super little horse that would suit small adult or young jockey. He would suit a novice or experienced rider.

07703595087 margot@newpoolfarm.co.uk

**Bay Filly Foal****Height:** 16hh+ at maturity**Age:** 5 months**Price:** £500**Description:** Ora is a stunning Bay filly. Born 20th July 2015 with lovely paces, to make 16hh plus. Dam can be seen. Weaning January 2016.

07487 696 774 linda@wrenslab.co.uk

**Fantastic 4 year old****Height:** 17.1hh **Age:** 4 year old **Price:** EPOA**Description:** Exceptional breeding Harley/Heartbreaker. Super temperament and 3 lovely natural paces. Riding very well. Straight forward trainable attitude. Ideal Dressage/Eventing/show jumping or hunting prospect! Recently passed 5 Stage vetting. Re-advertised due to time wasters.

07778 616 990

Why go to Brightwells?!**Height:** To make 16.2hh **Age:** 2yo **Price:** £7,950 ONO**Location:** Horsham W.Sussex**Description:** Gelding (3 in June) by Zambesi (Heartbreaker/ Calvaro Z) Out of my Artos Z/Ramiro mare. Lightly loose jumped for the advert. Showing to be bold with a good technique. Won best SJ foal at KWPN Inspection. Well handled & lovely temperament. Mother related to Don VHP Z. His pedigree is full of top grand prix showjumpers. Priced to sell. A serious prospect for the future. More pics & video avail. on request. 07710 392 714 kimfull@tiscali.co.uk**Quality Allrounder****Price:** £3,250**Description:** Gungellan Country Boy (Gunner) is an eye-catching bright bay Connemara x ISH. Sensible in open spaces, he has a fantastic jump & straight paces. College commitments mean that his full potential isn't being realised. Competition home wanted for this fabulous event/hunting prospect.

07527 373 120 petra33@btinternet.com

**By Tolegro (Tortilas)****Price:** £3000 ono**Location:** West Sussex**Description:** KWPN 2015 grey filly out of Premium mare. Moves superbly, beautifully made and a real looker. Lovely temperament. Available at imminent weaning.

01903744161

**Top Prospect****Height:** to make 17hh **Age:** 3yo **Price:** £4,500**Description:** 2012 KWPN gelding, to make 17hh. Excellent stamp - sort very hard to find nowadays. Incredible pedigree by Numero Uno x Nebab de Reve x Concorde. Absolute athlete moving and over fences His jump is seriously impressive - he has ENORMOUS scope and a fantastic desire to be careful. Affectionate, trainable nature. 07598 508 688 classicshowjumpers@hotmail.com**Horses
Wanted****Wanted Child's First Pony/Schoolmaster****Description:** Looking for first pony/schoolmaster or pony club and showing for 8yro granddaughter. Height of pony 13hh. Must be a gelding and 100% in every way.

07842282652

**Horses
For Sale****Maiden Point-to-Pointer****Price:** POA**Description:** A Maiden Point-to-Pointer (6 years old) Also, a Point-to-Point Schoolmaster (9 years old)

07880 782 786

hopkinsdm@yahoo.co.uk

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Warwickshire area

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Price: £1275

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07880920230 (please call after 6pm)



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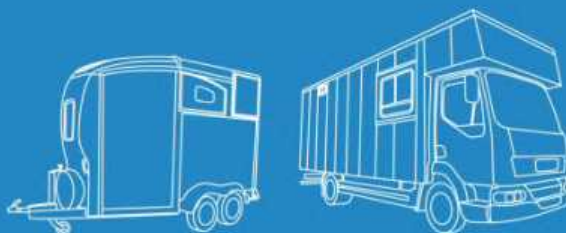
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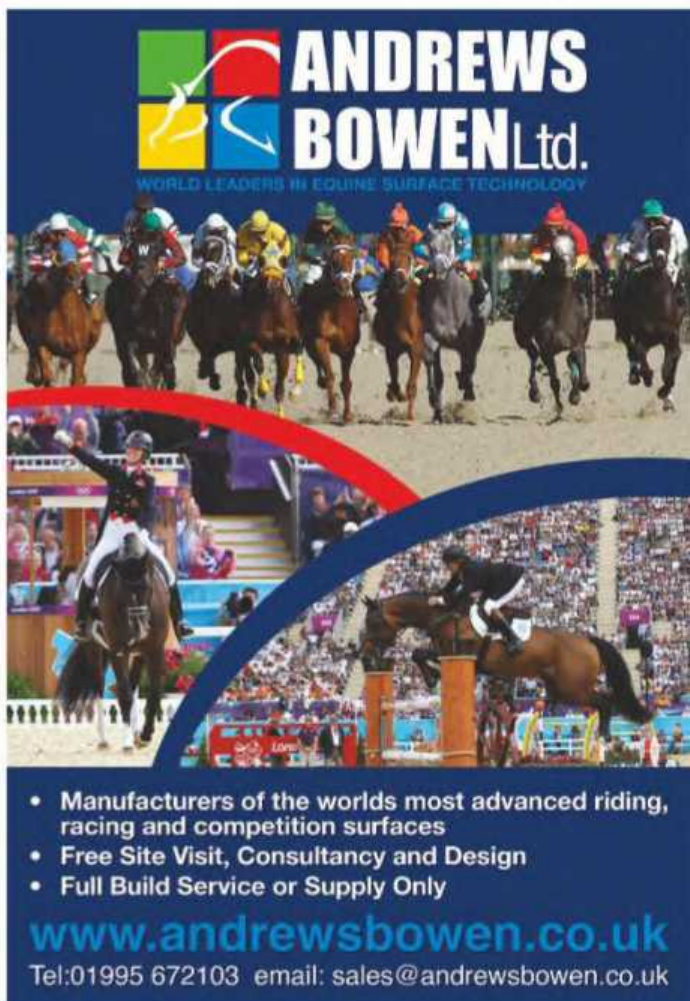
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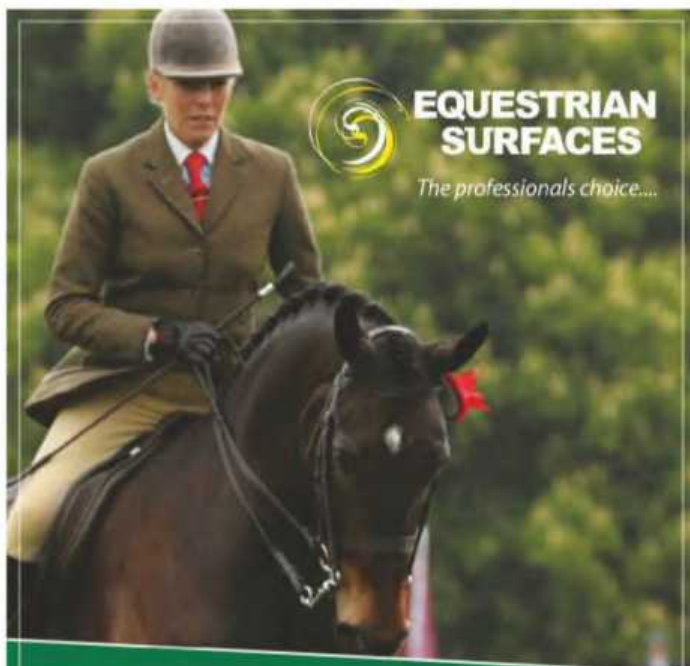


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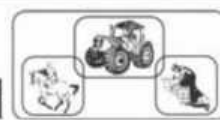
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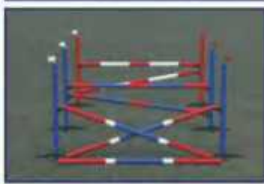
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For both roles, you will be supporting your Line Managers in their daily duties, whilst also studying for the Level 3 Advanced Diploma qualification in Equine. It is essential you will be able to work alongside Further and Higher Education students, encouraging and supporting their learning as well as your own, and ideally you will have a keen interest in working with horses.

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For more information on these roles, other opportunities and Writtle College, please visit our website: www.writtle.ac.uk
For an application pack, please email: HR@writtle.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Department on **01245 424208.**

Closing date for applications: 18 December 2015.

Writtle College strives to be an Equal Opportunities employer. All applicants who are offered employment will be subject to a criminal records check from the Disclosure and Barring Service. This college is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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The horse that made me

Paralympian Lee Pearson's 'golden monster' with natural brilliance, who put paras on the map

THE first time I saw Blue Circle Boy (Gus) I'd gone to buy a horse from a local lady where I live in Staffordshire and she had a yearling colt she kept in her garden. He was bright dun with infected legs, his mum had died when he was a day old and he was bottle-fed.

Three-and-a-half years later she phoned and said she had this stallion in the field and the only way she could keep him there was to put mares in with him. I went to see him and he was a massive, shaggy thing with hair down to his knees. I just thought he was a big horse, I knew nothing about dressage.

A couple of months later, after castration, we put him on the lunge and we were both dragged round the field by this golden monster.

So I took him to the boggiest part to gain the upper hand and just planted myself with my crutches while he kept slipping around. On the second day I told her to throw me on. He trotted like a Welsh cob on drugs, offering passage in between — he was a 17.2hh brute.

I never did any in-hand work with him, he just had a natural piaffe.

He was a bugger, but a very talented horse. I won three gold medals on him and we rode up to prix st georges in able-bodied dressage, and were elementary restricted national champions in 2004.

I didn't appreciate my talent or his talent at that time, or how difficult dressage is meant to be. He put me and para dressage on the map. He was a golden horse and my being disabled and having a horse of such beauty and power made people sit up and look.

Gus is a very expensive lawnmower now, enjoying retirement at home. **H&H**

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'He trotted like a Welsh cob on drugs — he was a 17.2hh brute'





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